

Reflection #10

For this reflection I'd like to forego the 3 questions style to talk about something that's been pressing on me for a while now.

I've been debating on whether or not to bring this up, but I've been noticing how my mentor MJ and his colleagues talk about kids when they're not in the room and it's been making me very uncomfortable. At lunchtime it's just me and a bunch of male teachers in a conference room, which already makes me have my guard up. There was one recently where MJ, Joe Ireland, the athletic director, and Trevor Mott were all in the room and they referred to students as "retards" and "dildos" and "dick-slaps". This has happened quite a few times and I never know what to say. I firmly believe that how you talk about the kids when they're not around has a direct correlation with how you treat them. Joe Ireland is often the ringleader when it comes to this kind of talk.

Upon one of my first meetings with MJ he told me a story where he had played a "prank" on a female teacher, [REDACTED]. She teaches health and has expressed that she gets a little uncomfortable teaching the anatomy unit. Because of tension between them in the past, he felt vindictive. So, he placed the "practice penis" (for showing how condoms work) right in the middle of her desk for her to find. [REDACTED] is the opposite of confrontational so she didn't report it. I believe this to be sexual harassment. I told him this and he brushed me off and laughed.

There have also been instances where students have used homophobic or racist language in class within earshot of teachers, but I'm always the one that goes to reprimand them for their behavior.

I have since brought this up with my other mentor [REDACTED] and she has agreed that the behavior of the male employees (Not including [REDACTED]) has been less than savory in language and actions. She says that she's discussed it with our department head [REDACTED] and she's noticed the behavior too.

I do not feel like this behavior is a direct threat to me, but I worry about the impact it has on the kids and other staff members. I want to finish out the year at this placement, obviously, but I worry that "blowing the whistle" too soon could cause some major unwanted tension towards me.

So... I'm not really sure what to do, but upon discussing this with my classmates they urged me to document this.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]