

Leading With Care Questions for Discussion

1. List the top three priorities of your school and district (if you are studying this book in a collaborative team, ask your colleagues to do this independently). What are the greatest pain points for schools and communities? What priorities are the same and which priorities are different? What accounts for the differences in priorities?

2. Consider writing an initiative inventory, listing all the instructional, curriculum, assessment, and leadership initiatives in your school and district. How are the responses to this challenge different between classroom educators and school and district administrators? Try to identify just two or three initiatives that can be terminated to better focus on your greatest priorities.

3. What incentives have led your best and brightest teachers to remain in the profession? What factors have led great teachers to leave the profession?

4. When parents and community members have been very supportive of schools, teachers, and local leadership, what accounted for that support? When parents and community members are not supportive, what accounts for that lack of support?

5. What are the enduring values of your school and system? What values and professional practices will remain in place five or ten years after you retire?