

# Foreword

**P**assionate teachers and leaders build powerful relationships with students and all members of the school community. They are positive influences on others, have a strong work ethic, and possess a tremendous desire to grow, but educators across the board know that as time goes, the details and hardships of day-to-day work can cause some of us to lose sight of our passion. In *Passionate Leadership*, Salome, Joe, and T.J. have written the manual for educators who are seeking to reignite their passion. This book is written for school leaders who want to build cultures of love, support, care, and high expectations.

Through working with schools and districts across America, I have the opportunity to see how the hard-fought efforts of effective teachers and principals accomplish good across the community. This success does not occur without effective teachers and principals fighting for better outcomes in their schools. My many years of research and teaching educational leadership have allowed me to uncover and enumerate what it means to be excellent in our work in classrooms and beyond. I can say without hesitation that T.J., Joe, and Salome have added a much-needed ingredient to what the best leaders know our schools need to be successful: *passion*. It is clear that one thing great teachers and principals do that others do not is bring passionate leadership into their classrooms, schools, and districts every day.

During my career, I've written many books and have spoken to hundreds if not thousands of groups about what motivates staff members, teachers, and principals during difficult times. One area that is essential is enhancing staff morale through the building of positive school cultures. In many ways, the culture of our schools must be one of care. This can be accomplished through positive

communication and openness to change and transformation so that all students are succeeding. Now is the time to build better cultures in our schools so that our teachers and principals have the energy they need to be passionate and excellent, and where our students have the support they need to be successful.

In *Passionate Leadership*, Salome, Joe, and T.J. present the blueprint for what your school and district need to develop and sustain a culture of success. Every teacher and school leader who cares about self-reflection, treating others with respect, and becoming a positive force in their school should read this book. Whether you're looking for technical expertise or inspiration, this book is packed with the power of passion and positivity along with what that can mean for every school.

Readers will love the way this book is set up. The formula for passion is simple: 1. We all must desire to grow a culture with deep relationships, 2. Everyone must contribute with no idle onlookers allowed, and 3. Positivity must be the core of our daily work. The book has three sections, with each section dedicated to a different part of the formula, and each individual section has three components as well: The first is comprised of real stories which the authors collected from educators who are in the trenches daily, the second derives from the research that identifies what schools need now, and the third contains technical tips that are provided for implementation as soon as you finish the book.

Whether you're a passionate educator or one who has somehow lost your source of passion, this book can help you move forward on your journey. If you have a desire to grow through feedback, if you want to impact others in your school, or if you simply want to find a way to surround yourself with positive people, this book is an excellent tool. Working to build a culture where passion is sustainable throughout your school is a daunting task, but valuable resources like *Passionate Leadership* make the process easy to understand. The authors are leadership practitioners and champions for all educators, so they know through experience, that the content in this book is genuine.

Lastly, let me say that I was personally inspired by the stories you'll find within the pages of this book. I'm energized by the work

that is being done day-in and day-out by passionate teachers and leaders across the nation and around the world, and I hope you'll join me, along with Joe, Salome, and T.J., in developing passionate leadership in every school. Enjoy this groundbreaking book, and you'll be among the many who have become a part of the revolution to improve and innovate what we do in education. *Passionate Leadership* isn't just recommended reading for all school personnel, it should be expected reading for all educators for the important work they do in our schools. Enjoy.

—**Todd Whitaker**

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*What Great Teachers Do Differently* and  
*What Great Principals Do Differently*

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