



Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | www.ethicsed.org

“Ethics in action creates character.”

Use this blog to:

1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core values.
3. Recognize skills in support of the four components of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)

Student Journalism in Support of Ethics

There are multiple ethical discussions that could take place from a story that student journalists at Pittsburgh High School in Kansas recently published. In the research to learn about their newly hired principal, the students’ recognized inconsistencies and confusing responses to simple introductory



questions as compared to her application. Further investigation led the students to conclude that the new principal had misrepresented herself in multiple ways on her application. With the exposure of this student story, the principal candidate withdrew herself from the position before her first day on the job.

The community was faced with the evidence that student journalists had done a more complete background check than the adult committees serving the school board and the community news agencies. As we noted at the start of this case, multiple points of ethical reflection here. Clearly the newly hired principal candidate revealed a failure of commitment to ethical core values, but can one fairly assess any ethical failure on the part of the school board to hire such a flawed candidate?

On a positive note, what can be said about the core ethical values of the students? They certainly must have faced some pressure in the form of “there is nothing to see here” from members of the adult community. SEE celebrates the responsibility demonstrated by these students to follow up on their questions and publish their story. What other core ethical values did the students demonstrate? What skill sets must the students have demonstrated to complete their research and story?

Regarding the questions in this case, SEE welcomes students to post their response on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where more information is available for *Reasoning with Ethics* and the video link for this archived case can be found at- <http://bit.ly/Student-Reporters>

Contact information

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at www.ethicsed.org Please reply with “unsubscribe” in the subject heading if you want to be removed from this Reasoning with Ethics Blog.