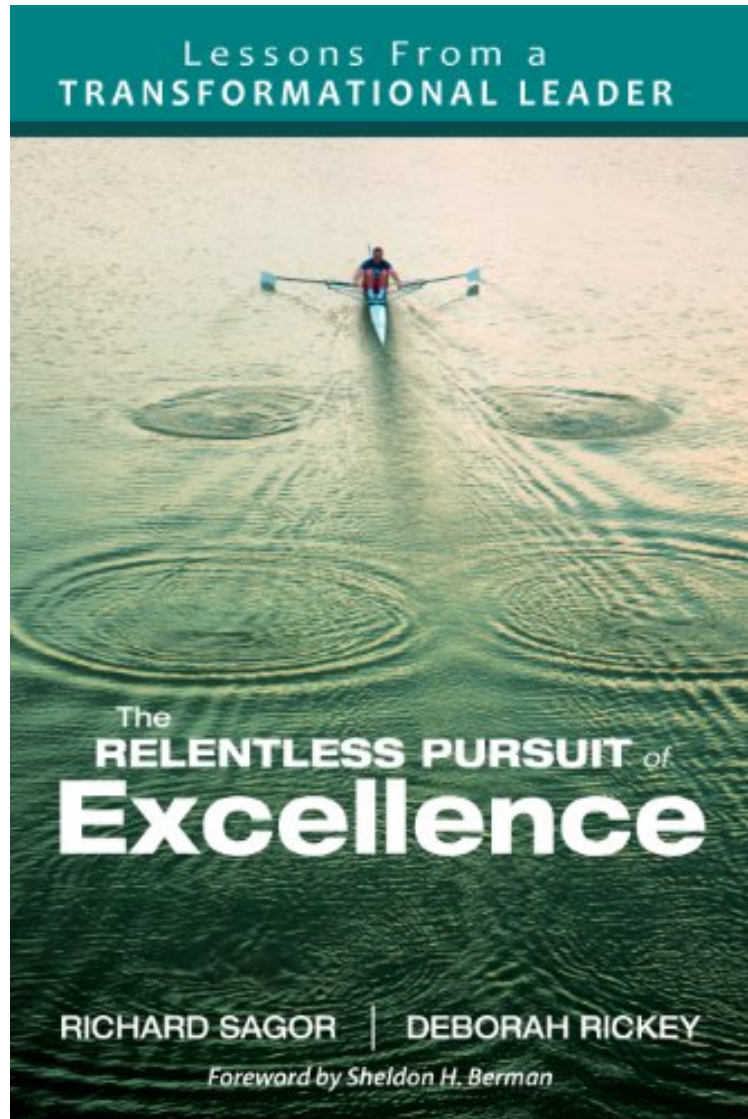


(Mobile book) The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Lessons From a Transformational Leader

The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Lessons From a Transformational Leader

Richard D. Sagor, Deborah L. Rickey

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Richard D. Sagor, Deborah L. Rickey : The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Lessons From a Transformational Leader before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Lessons From a Transformational Leader:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jan EdwardsGreat book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Frankschool book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dealous Cox and the "People Strategy"By Johan MaurerI recently reviewed (not here) a book that affected me powerfully,

Sarah Ruden's *Paul Among the People*. Whether or not the author intended it, that book seems to me to be one of the most spiritually persuasive I've seen in a long time. It turns out that this present book, *The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence*--a secular book for a secular audience--also has a sort of evangelistic quality. Again, this was probably not the authors' intention. The two books are very different: Sarah Ruden wrote about early Christian history, while *Relentless Pursuit* authors Richard Sagor and Deborah Rickey wrote about an Oregon educator who is still alive and active. As secular as the book is (it's about public education, after all), they are clear that this educator, Dea Cox, and the philosophy behind his successful leadership in the school district they describe, are grounded in Christian faith--specifically in its Quaker expression. Right from the start, the authors make it clear that Dea Cox didn't pursue a model that is sometimes fashionable today in the high-stakes world of school superintendents--the charismatic authoritarian. Nor did he begin his 14-year tenure in the West Linn-Wilsonville school district with a sure-fire set of formulas or educational doctrines that could be replicated by someone else with the right instruction book or guru close at hand. Instead, he pursued and implemented a "people strategy" that became part of the culture of that school district to this day. Dea summed up his strategy this way: "The secret of being a successful school administrator is to spend your energy and resources attracting and retaining good staff." It's a deceptively simple statement with deep implications, and the book spends most of its pages describing the implementation of this "secret" in recruiting and interviewing new educators, decisions about tenure, budgeting, superintendent-staff relations, relations with students and parents, drawing school boundaries, adopting new technologies, and other areas of educational administration--all of which are loaded with opportunities for conflict and fragmentation. In all of these areas, the three core values of the people strategy are immediately relevant: 1. No person has a monopoly on wisdom. 2. We all have things to learn. 3. Wiser decisions are made when we consider multiple perspectives. Each chapter of the book is a case study, or set of cases, showing in practical terms how these values are applied. I particularly loved the description of how Dea and his colleagues handled the process of deciding what computer system to use for the district. Other values important to Quakers are also recurring themes in this book, particularly truth and trustworthiness. For example, the authors show how being truthful, instead of giving in to the constant organizational temptation to "feign certainty," had at least two very practical benefits: credibility with parents, and resistance to complacency within the organization. Thanks to Richard Sagor and Deborah Rickey, these and other important insights have been thoughtfully organized and made accessible in this short, fascinating book. (Disclosure: personal friendship with Dea and Lois Cox--but I did pay full price for the book! This review is adapted from a post on my blog, *Can You Believe?*)

How to bring out the best in your staff and in yourself How do we attract and retain high-quality teachers? This text offers a refreshing alternative to the portfolio and high-stakes accountability models of school improvement. Based on the successful methods of Dea Cox, this book describes a leadership philosophy based on the search for wisdom through personal reflection and community. The authors share their experience with this leadership style and document the sustainable results of transformational leaders working with teachers as partners rather than adversaries. These results include: Consistently improved teacher performance Improved teacher quality Greater professional satisfaction for teachers Stronger community support for schools

"Chapters offer a concrete formula for bringing out the best in school leaders, presenting a proven leadership model that works well in the school environment."--Midwest Book , October 2012 This book provides a hands-on approach to leadership. The story of how Dea Cox transformed education through his leadership style is worth promoting. --Gary L. Willhite, Associate Professor (01/10/2012) "At a time when unarguable strong leadership and identifiable heroes are harder to find, the story of Dea Cox provides both hope and faith that good leadership can facilitate solving some of the complex issues that face public education in the 21st century. --Lynn Macan, Superintendent (01/10/2012) " This book provides a hands-on approach to leadership. The story of how Dea Cox transformed education through his leadership style is worth promoting. --Gary L. Willhite, Associate Professor (01/10/2012) " At a time when unarguable strong leadership and identifiable heroes are harder to find, the story of Dea Cox provides both hope and faith that good leadership can facilitate solving some of the complex issues that face public education in the 21st century. --Lynn Macan, Superintendent (01/10/2012) ""Chapters offer a concrete formula for bringing out the best in school leaders, presenting a proven leadership model that works well in the school environment."--Midwest Book , October 2012 "This book provides a hands-on approach to leadership. The story of how Dea Cox transformed education through his leadership style is worth promoting."--Gary L. Willhite, Associate Professor (01/10/2012) "At a time when unarguable strong leadership and identifiable heroes are harder to find, the story of Dea Cox provides both hope and faith that good leadership can facilitate solving some of the complex issues that face public education in the 21st century."--Lynn Macan, Superintendent (01/10/2012) -This book provides a hands-on approach to leadership. The story of how Dea Cox transformed education through his leadership style is worth promoting. ---Gary L. Willhite, Associate Professor (01/10/2012) -At a time when unarguable strong leadership and identifiable heroes are harder to find, the story of Dea Cox provides both hope and faith that good leadership can facilitate solving some of the complex issues that face public education in the 21st century. ---Lynn Macan, Superintendent (01/10/2012) -Chapters

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