



QUALITIES OF A PRESIDENT

IN AN EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHER SCHOOL

The following description and list of qualities are for a person assuming the role of a President in a Edmund Rice Christian Brother Catholic Secondary school. The list contains worthwhile material that could be used to construct an evaluative instrument and job description for the position of President.

The role of the President is that of a visionary apostolic leader wishing to be a true servant leader in the school community. The role is vital in providing inspiration, in the development of a common vision and in persevering unity within the educational community. Since the world-view of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Catholic Church is the basis on which a common vision is built, the President is guided by this world-view and it the one responsible, along with the principal, for ensuring that opportunities are provided through which the other members of the community can come to a greater understanding of this world-view and its applications to Catholic education. In addition to this role of inspiration, the President remains ultimately responsible for the execution of the basic educational policy of the school and for the distinctively Christian Brother nature, Catholic identity and culture of the educational institution.

“The principal role of the president...is to positively influence adult behavior (that of the faculty, administration, parents and board members) to operate in the best interest of the students” (*A Straight-Talking Guide to Running a School: For Presidents, Heads of Schools and Boards of Catholic Elementary and High School*, Rowe, 2003, p. 11).

1. Authentic Role Model

- a person with a perceived personal and professional commitment to Gospel values in the Catholic tradition
- a person who lives out his/her values
- a professional with a sound Catholic educational philosophy
- a person who is open to growth and learning
- a person who is healthy and cares for self
- a person of compassion and pastoral sensitivity

2. Spiritual Commitment

- a person willing to develop an experiential familiarity with Blessed Edmund Rice’s charism
- a person of vision and faith who operates from a religious value system
- a participating Catholic who accepts the Church’s mission
- a person willing to serve as the animator of what is the Christian Brother tradition and Catholic in the school

3. Leadership

- an effective communicator with proven ability to communicate the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Education to broad and diverse publics
- a person with proven interpersonal skills
- a person who inspires community building
- a person with proven administrative abilities
- a person with public relations skills
- a person who is able to fund raise and will to ask for money
- a person willing to be responsible for the articulation of the school’s vision and what it stands for

4. Management

- a person who understands the administrative process
- a person who can build and lead a team
- a person with proven management skills
- a person who is willing to delegate power and responsibility to others
- a person who understand financial processes
- a person who is collaborative
- a person who is able to generate and allocate resources

5. Insures Tradition

- a person who is loyal to the structure and philosophy of the school as an institution
- a person willing to be accountable to the Office of Educational Service for the Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools as representative of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Leadership Team
- a person committed to the Governance Board(s)
- a person who demands regular evaluations
- a person willing to educate the various publics of the change in Christian Brother education

6. Educational Experience

- a person with secondary educational experience (teacher, administrator, develop director)
- a person with an experience in a Christian Brother secondary school
- a person who meets professional standards acceptable to the academic community
- a person who seeks the position as part of continued professional growth and development