**FORM 8**

*Georgia Southern University*

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development**

**SUPERVISED FIELD EXPERIENCE REFLECTION**

**EDLD 7737/7738 FALL \_\_\_\_ SPRING \_\_X\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_2024\_\_**

Candidate: Dinah Myrick

Campus Mentor: Mr. Levar Garner

University Supervisor: Dr. Suzanne Miller

School: Center Elementary

**PART I: DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD EXPERIENCE**

* Date of Activity: 2/9/2024
* Hours Completed: 3
* Georgia Leadership Standards Met: 1,2,3,4,7,8
* Description of the Field Experience Activity and Your Role (100 to 250 words)

In celebration of Valentine’s Day, the fourth grade team at Center Elementary sponsored a Valentine’s dance for grades 3-5 as a fundraiser for their upcoming field trip to Atlanta. This fun-filled event was planned and executed by the fourth grade team of teachers. In addition, other teachers and staff members across the building volunteered for various duties to help make the dance a success. This was the first Valentine’s dance held at the school in over 10 years. The new administration team and post-COVID PTO worked extremely hard to provide an evening of music, food, fellowship and fun for the students and teachers. My role was to assist EL’s parents with pick-up instructions and/or any other concerns as necessary. I also manned the photo and flower booth. I collected the money for photos and flowers and wrote the students name on a list so that they could receive their photos the following week in their classrooms. The Valentine’s dance was a successful event for the school and the fourth grade team. It was a great fundraiser to help them offset some costs for their approaching field trip.

**PART II: REFLECTION\***

Please reflect on the Field Experience by answering the following questions in at least one paragraph each.

1. Based on your study of leadership, how was this experience aligned with the knowledge base and skills of school leaders and how did this help you to learn information that you will be able to use in your career as a leader?

Involvement in this activity helped me better understand fundraising procedures and protocols, which is a topic a school leader needs to be knowledgeable about. While working with the 4th grade team, I learned that a fundraiser on this scale has to be board approved, and I was briefed on the documents that need to be submitted. I also learned that as a leader, when a grade level or department approaches you with a request, you have to make a well-informed decision regarding whether to approve it or not. Factors that have to be considered when approving a decision like this are safety, manpower, logistics, and resources. I am fortunate to work with an organized and experienced team of teachers who thought of every detail and delegated with grace.

1. What did you learn about your own leadership ability or your leadership potential during this field experience?

All events, whether big or small, come with their unique set of benefits and challenges. As an aspiring leader this dance gave me a glimpse into both side. As a leader the benefits of hosting a school dance are: providing a safe and fun activity for students, which can serve as a reward for positive behavior, an opportunity to raise revenue to offer more engaging events to the students, and it serves as an opportunity to promote collaboration and team building among staff members. Challenges may include inclusivity and diversity, miscommunication, or unexpected circumstances that may change the schedule such as inclement weather. A well-prepared and resilient school leader can navigate these obstacles and create a memorable experience for the students.

1. Explain two or three main points about leadership that you learned from this field experience activity.

This event highlighted the significance of public relation skills when planning a major event that will involve all stakeholders. Gaining support from teachers, co-administrators, and parents is paramount in order to ensure a successful event. Additionally, I learned that post-event evaluations can be very beneficial. Assessing the success of events and collecting feedback are important for organizing better events in the future. I hope that in the future, I will be able to support a team a teachers in organizing and executing an event with precision and a high level of success.