NO MARKS: WHAT TO DO?

Supervision Case Study #1

The 3-hour drive to this one teacher school allowed me opportunity to think a lot about a number of conference education related issues. As the Superintendent of Education, my associate and I were responsible for 75 teachers and almost 1,000 children in 16 schools. This was my first year as the conference superintendent and we had decided over the summer that we would spend the bulk of our working time visiting teachers and classrooms. Thus, three full days of every week were spend on the road making sure that each teacher in the conference and the students in their rooms,received a visit.

This particular visit was designed to be a get acquainted visit only and happened towards the end of September. There was to be no formal evaluation of the teacher and her teaching methods at this time. I simply was paying a friendly visit to this experienced teacher of 25 years, whom I had never met before.

As I came to the classroom, I was warmly greeted. As I sat in the back of the classroom I noticed a very friendly atmosphere between the students and the teacher. She seemed to teach classes with enthusiasm and the students seemed to respond by completing homework assignments with zeal. In the course of my visit, I asked the teacher to let me see her lesson plan book to see where she was in her lessons with the children.

I immediately noticed that the lesson plans were very "abbreviated" and that there were no long- range yearly lesson plans in place. I asked her about this and she responded that she was an experienced teacher, had taught these classes before, and did not need the detailed plans that more inexperienced teachers needed. Fine. I then looked at her grade-book for the class and noticed that there were very few marks for the 7 students (Grades 1-8) in her room. When I asked her about this I was told that she had been so busy since the beginning of school that she had not had time to mark any homework for the last 3 weeks.

What should I do in this situation? What type of supervision response should be expected? What did I do?