Decision Thoughts

Decision making can be a challenge for individuals. For a company, comprised of an array of departments and layers of different job classifications, decision making can become a downright mess.

The following MindSets can be helpful as leaders attempt to make sound decisions.

♦ Take enough time to get clarity of thought as to the precise question or decision to be made. Has the problem or opportunity been adequately defined? It is surprising how many leaders start the decision making process without putting adequate effort into this necessary first step.

♦ Identify the individuals within the company who have information, knowledge, or experience that could be beneficial in the decision making process.

♦ Consider gaining input from a few individuals who have some distance from the problem or decision to be made. Involving such colleagues can help to bring out new ideas or suggest new ways of looking at a challenge.

♦ Make sure that adequate time is given to explore the downside of any decision you might reach. It is human nature to become optimistic about the potential gains from our decisions without giving adequate consideration to the potential costs should things not go quite as planned.

♦ Once a decision is reached, you know "what" you are going to do. Don't stop thinking yet. Consider process…the "how" is often every bit as important as the "what." (More on this in What & How – Sit Back Down.)

♦ It is usually wise to make decisions only after a methodical process of analysis…but once made, implement the decision rapidly and with confidence.

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