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In the case study *Making the Right Decision*, the question of ethics is brought up a lot for all characters involved. In this case study, Mr. Washington, the school security guard, is accused of allowing a student (John Peterson) to hit a student Mr. Washington was restraining (Ricky Johnson) for hurting other students. Ethical decisions are different from everyday decisions because other elements such as religion, family beliefs, culture, etc. come into play when making a final decision. Because each of these elements is unique to each person, one person may deem a decision ethical, while another person may deem the same situation unethical.

Mr. Green is the district's Superintendent. He knows Mr. Washington personally and chose to make a phone call, off the record, to the building principal on behalf of Mr. Washington suggesting the allegations be dealt with behind closed doors. Mr. Washington and Mr. Green have been long time friends and co-workers. Regardless of whether the phone call was ethical or unethical, I feel that Mr. Green was trapped because he felt that by doing nothing he would be behaving *unethically* but not supporting his long time friend and coworker. With that in mind, Mr. Green chose to make the phone call 'off the record'. This way, he would not officially be asking his employee to do something. He is still ultimately leaving the decision up to the building principal. Therefore, I do not feel that Mr. Green's actions were unethical. He chose to voice his opinions and remain faithful to a friend, without forcing anyone to fulfill his wishes.

Each community and culture share several of the same morals and values that helps identify the ethics of a community. In this case study, two communities are discussed: the school

community, and the surrounding municipality. Prior to the alleged incident, Mr. Washington was highly regarded in both communities, yet both communities have somewhat different morals and values.

In schools, safety for teachers and students is held in high regard. Therefore, if this alleged incident was proven to be true, I doubt there would be any question as to whether Mr. Washington would be dismissed. Unfortunately, there is an unclear picture in this situation. They can only go on the facts they are provided. Facts consisting of five-year olds making claims, and a dedicated, slate-free employee of twenty-five years. Therefore, the dilemma the school faces is to determine whether they will follow their moral values for the safety of the children (regardless of whether Mr. Washington is proven guilty) or their loyalty to their employees.

In the surrounding community, there are much more complex values. They too want to keep their people safe, but they also want to support upstanding citizens for their good work. In this case, Mr. Washington was a “pillar in the surrounding community” and therefore, the community is likely to support his protests of innocence, regardless of the accusations of harming another student.

The young boy, Ricky, cannot be forgotten amidst these accusations. To start, Ricky still needs to accept the consequences for initially punching the other students in the cafeteria. Mr. Washington never would have been near Ricky had he not be harming other students. Mr. Washington only got involved because he was doing his job. In addition, we cannot immediately assume Ricky is lying because of his young age, so I do not feel Ricky’s claims can be completely dismissed, yet I do not feel it is worth losing a twenty-five year career on possible false accusations. I feel that by formally addressing the accusations and recording them would be in the best interest of Mr. Washington and Ricky. For Ricky, this would send the message that

the school took his allegations seriously and wants to keep him safe. For Mr. Washington, this will show that the school values his continued dedication to the school by not immediately dismissing him, but will send the message that should any other behavior of the like be reported, that this record will be on file, and much more serious disciplinary actions will be taken.