ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

If you can dream it, you can do it. —Walt Disney

I had a dream to be a teacher. I became a teacher.
I had a dream to have a family. I have a family.
I had a dream to be a principal. I became a principal.
I had a dream to earn my doctorate. I earned my doctorate.
I had a dream to write a book. This is it.

We all have dreams. Behind every great dream is a host of inspirers, cheerleaders, mentors, family members, and friends. Those who achieve their dreams have an internal drive and perseverance. But if we are honest with ourselves, we know that our dreams are built with the help of those who lift us up when we are down, whisper “You can do this” when we might break, and celebrate even the tiniest of successes.

My dreams would not be possible without many. My parents were my first teachers. I vividly remember sitting on my mother’s lap reading book after book for hours. It was pure joy and bliss. There is nothing better than being read to while in one’s mother’s lap. My father’s grit and determination were passed on to me. In my moments of weakness, he was there to guide, direct, and push. I am a better person because of him.

I am uniquely blessed with an amazing run of phenomenal teachers. I’m afraid that if I start to list them, I will likely forget one
who also had an impact on my life. Thank you to my first principal, Mr. Robert Trout, for modeling what being an extraordinary principal looks like. Mr. Trout and all my teachers gave me a gift that inspired me to believe in 100 percent of the kids 100 percent of the time. Thank you, teachers.

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Now, what is your dream?