The Goal is Lean

One of the few characters in The Goal who is helping the company in the right direction is Mike. This person is not a main character but contributed more than anyone else at his position. Alex recommends that when the union decided to start making raises available again he should get promoted or a pay raise. What Mike did was completely logical. Yet not thought of from the other two foreman’s running the heat treat, which was one of the main bottlenecks. Mike was the heat treat foreman on the 3rd shift.

Stacey implemented the green and red tag system the red tags were top priority so when Mike received the red tag parts that needed to be put into the furnace he did so. Mike also maximized the furnaces capacity which is extremely important. Mike accomplished this rather easily. If the furnace was not full after they had put all of the red tag parts in that needed to be at a certain temperature, Mike would look down the list of parts that he had that needed to be heat treated in the same temperature. Therefore, Mike was completely maximizing the furnaces capacity. This is astounding because this was a bottleneck, so any extra work they could squeeze out of this furnace was greatly improving the plant. These little improvements are what increase throughput decrease inventory and decrease operational expense. Mike did all of those things without even knowing it. This is one of the few little things that improve a plant for the good and Alex rewarded this man’s thinking. All in all Mike did everything that Alex wanted without being asked or told to do he moved all three measurements in the way you want. Mike is one of the employees that every boss would love to have.