

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
MARCH 20, 2018

N = 33 Attended Meeting
N = 36 Online Survey

TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR THE INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT:

1. Building a bridge to get parents and community truly involved in the school district
(Parents cannot be heard sitting at home)
Get parent buy-in
2. Create a vision and articulate the vision
Students should be the center of the vision
3. Recruit, retain, support, and appreciate teachers
Why are teachers leaving for surrounding districts?
Make employees feel valued and appreciated
4. Improve the image of the school district
District is not as bad as it is portrayed in the media and the community

MAJOR STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Community members from all sectors and backgrounds are willing to help
Caring teachers and administrators
Potential for change if all efforts are harnessed
Sports programs

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT:

Is a "healer"
Focuses on goals and mission
Has the ability to listen and to "hear" what is being said
Understands the urgency of refocusing the district
Can repair the poor reputation and image (Example = Columbus Choir – few know about it)
Possesses an "outward mindset" (focuses on others); builds a team; builds up others
Is visible
Is a seasoned educator; has hands-on experience in a classroom
High morals
Reinstates order and discipline
Ability to develop partnership with institutions of higher learning
Develops positive relationships with all stakeholder groups, including the media
Can be a fixer/mender
Is proactive rather than reactive
Open-minded with a positive attitude
People person
Good motivator for staff and students
Courage to lead and to make difficult decisions
Humble

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR:

School board holds superintendent accountable for established priorities

Board and superintendent identify five problems and have superintendent solve those

AWARENESS FOR SEARCH CONSULTANTS:

Urgency in finding the right candidate

Families leaving the district for Lowndes County Schools

Realtors not making Columbus a priority

Discipline process is not supported

District is in a holding pattern (D)

Lack of communication between school and community

OTHER COMMENTS:

Make selection of the superintendent an open process

Is there an internal applicant?