North Allegheny Public Schools

Executive Summary of School/Community Input Groups for Superintendent Search

On Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29, 2020 consultants facilitated conversation with six (6) stakeholder groups of the school district. Feedback was centered on four (4) probes. The responses were collated to determine key themes that represent the current views of district patrons and employees. In addition, the same questions were made available via the firm’s website to broaden participation in this most critical work to ultimately select the next superintendent for the North Allegheny School District.

In the executive summary, consistent themes and ideas are recorded. They represent input that was consistent to all or most of the groups and could be considered to have broad support. The complete lists of feedback by group is compiled in another list.

OVERALL THEMES

- Tell us the good things about the community of North Allegheny.
  - Location to Pittsburgh and the East Coast-top place to live and work
  - Abundant activities for all ages
  - Schools are major source of pride---many move back to raise their children
  - Engaged and supportive families and community---very high expectations
  - Excellent extra-curricular opportunities
  - Business partnership opportunities abundant in Pittsburgh area

- Tell us the good things about North Allegheny Public Schools.
  - High achieving students and wonderful staff
  - Separated from other districts regarding technology (remote learning), music required in 4th grade, college prep and whole child development
  - Arts are the best in Pittsburgh-
  - Students come ready to learn and are coached to great success
  - Strong SPED, HAL programs, Wellness
- Excellent staff at all levels/much accountability for results
- Strong family and community support
- Sports are competitive

- What are the hot topics facing the district that the new superintendent should be aware of?
  - Reopening the schools
  - Administrative turnover and a relatively new board
  - Financial shortages and property tax concerns
  - Middle School restructuring of the day
  - Initiative fatigue influenced by central office turnover
  - Need balance between culture of excellence and well-being of the child
  - Change is very hard in NA-not all students succeeding
  - Entrenched groups and power politics/dealing with strong and different opinions
  - Lack of engagement with kids in the middle
  - Clash between athletics and academics/forced choice for students

- What are the skills, characteristics, and traits that the next superintendent should possess?
  - Strong leadership with ability to listen, collaborate and decide
  - Strong conviction to do what is best for kids in the face of financial and political challenges
  - People oriented with ability to relate with students, staff, parents, board and community
  - Motivator and inspirer
  - Embrace NA tradition and culture
  - Visible in schools and community