

Monday, January 12, 2015

Community Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ryan Ray and Stan Paz, facilitators from Ray and Associates

1. What do you consider as the significant strengths of the school district?
 - Schools of choice – Hosted an excellent school choice fair to let the community know that APS has schools that meet the needs of different students and allow parents to pick the schools that fit the needs of their kids
 - Diversity of the community
 - People care about the schools in their community and want to contribute and help
 - Extra-curricular activities, music and arts programs, there are an enormous amount of choices for students, school types, fine arts, dual enrollment with college, etc.
 - New Mexico and APS piloted the common core
 - University town
 - Local universities provide resources for teachers

What do you feel are the positives of the community?

- A lot of organizations doing impact work to support each other for the bigger vision of our city - Unidos project, United Way, make sure there is a pipeline of cradle to career - Mission Graduate
- The range of our families that exist in ABQ - culturally rich opportunities for all of our students and families
- Inter-generational component - people stay here and have pride in their school and neighborhood
- Value system - the people here really value family and community - traditional values that aren't found in many other places

What are the three qualities you would like to see in a new superintendent?

- More interest in the student than in his or her salary - appalled that offering \$300,000 - want to know benefits package - golden parachute
- Open in communication style - families want to be involved in their student's education but they don't know how to access the district - feel like they aren't listened to and don't feel welcome in the process - especially emerging families
- Willing to help the district communicate in languages of the community, not just Spanish
- Honoring local heritage and work with the community to build upon assets of APS
- Want local context of working in Albuquerque specifically

- Someone who is smart and grounded in the community - communicate with business and university but also can have a dialogue with parents who want to be part of the APS system
 - Someone who is a strong listener; able to listen to all types of people and genuinely tries to address the concerns
 - Integrity - someone who will fight for the rights of students even if it's unpopular - public education is a civil right, not a privilege
 - Someone who understands the culture of New Mexico and what the culture brings to the table in education so students can succeed in school
 - Supports idea that family education is integral to the success of students
4. What is the management style you would like to see implemented by the new superintendent?
5. What are the critical issues the new superintendent will face in this position?
- Teacher evaluation system - effect it has had on teacher morale - finding qualified teachers to replace them
 - Requirements for graduation
 - Re-evaluating and re-shaping the curriculum to be more relevant to current students and appeal to their interests - recognize student strengths
 - Concern that the middle school learning environment needs to be improved so that students feel safe and empowered
 - Building trust in the community
 - Be a champion for equity and close the achievement gap
 - High poverty and its effect on student academic achievement
6. Is there any other information you would like to share concerning the community, school or superintendent position that would impact the search process?
- What are the minimum qualifications identified? The Board of Education decided to do this organically - they wanted to know what the community had to say before they decided what the qualifications should be like a master's degree, etc.
 - Board members will be able to view the candidates in videos before they call applicants for the next round.
 - Does there have to be a clause in the contract that pays the superintendent after they are fired?
 - How will the information from the survey be collected and relayed back to the community?
 - Better communication in Spanish from the staff
 - \$300,000 is way too much. Should be more like \$100,000. Don't care what other communities pay. What on earth could a person do to warrant \$300,000 a year + expenses + benefits + gifts + bribes?
 - Gov. Johnson negotiated a bill in 2002 to break up APS. ██████ said the board would look into privatizing – it never happened. Think outside the box!