



Florida School Boards Association
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH



COMMUNITY FORUM / OKEECHOBEE H.S.

Date: 3/4/24

Location: District Office Board Room

Facilitators: John Reichert and Dr. Bill Vogel assisted by Mike Gaudreau

Logistics: Sharon Vinson, Dr. Joe Stanley, and Lauren Myers

Participants: 14

List the strengths and those areas of Okeechobee County Schools that the next superintendent will need to understand and continue to support.

1. Community minded
2. Honor past traditions
3. Culture
4. Open door policy that starts with the Superintendent and Board
5. Community partnerships
6. Unique rural demographic. CTE programs are the backbone of our high school and prepare graduates for jobs in the community. They are a significant benefit.
7. Understanding of potential growth coming
8. IRSC Promise Program. All graduates receive free tuition for two years. 82% continue after the first semester
9. Dual enrollment
10. Put students first
11. Partnerships with all sectors (churches, civic organizations, non-profits, business, etc.)
12. Customer service (extraordinary)
13. Extracurricular and athletic opportunities (sports, drama, art, agriculture, 4H, etc.)

What are the most critical needs and challenges of Okeechobee County Schools that the next superintendent will need to understand and address?

1. Support needed for students and staff with mental health issues
2. A visionary leader who honors the past but focuses on the future
3. Move from reactive to proactive
4. Address potential declining enrollment with charters, private schools, home schools, etc.
5. Funding as it relates to the tax rate
6. Beautify schools so they don't look like prisons but maintain security
7. Consider impact fees
8. Support ESE students
9. Attract, retain, and support teachers and staff
10. Parents shop for schools. Make Okeechobee Schools their first choice
11. Establish a leadership training program for potential administrators



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What personal qualities, professional experience, and other skills should the Board look for in its next superintendent?

1. Local knowledge—It sends a positive message to the community when the Superintendent rises up from the community (5)
2. A superintendent who believes every student can accomplish what they want to achieve including becoming a doctor, teacher, superintendent, etc. (4)
3. Team builder who can address morale issues (4)
4. Experience that aligns with the cultural and demographic realities of the district (2)
5. Strong communicator who can deal with a crisis (2)
6. Fiscally responsible (1)
7. Leader not a manager (1)
8. Inspiring (1)
9. Walk the walk, talk the talk
10. Progressive leadership roles (teacher, AP, Principal, etc.)
11. Knowledge of state and local funding resources
12. Resourceful
13. Innovative and dynamic
14. Charismatic

Please note:

Numbers next to some priorities indicate priorities of the in-person participants

Wording of input items based on the satisfaction of participants



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