NKY and State Board Member discussion for Commissioner Search

Facilitated by Dr. Tom Shelton, KASS

Members Present: Nawanna Privett, Leo Calderon

Superintendents Present: Gene Kirchner, Robert Storer, Robb Smith, Jay Brewer, Anthony Strong, Randy Poe

**Topics Shared**

* State Board members have received copies of Superintendent Characteristics.
* State Board has developed a list of characteristics desired and list is posted on KDE’s website.
* Electronic input accepted by KDE until Tuesday, June 2, 2015.
* Amount of change over the last several years has been dramatic. Governor’s race potential of change is huge. We need to continue to learn about what we are doing before change again. Another new system or project would be hard. Stability is needed before additional change. Dramatic change is not needed at this time. Maintain Stability
* Big supporter of Terry Holliday. Like accessibility of Terry Holliday. Felt comfortable to talk to him. Felt like superintendents were able to talk; Openness to the next commissioner; Advocate for Superintendents.
* Unfunded mandates are difficult to handle.
* We do not like surprises from KDE; Need to be included in the conversation.
* Relationship with the alphabet group is critical.
* Proud to have a KY Commissioner leading CSSO.
* Colleagues across the state would share this has been the least assessable. Commissioner; Pleased G. Wilhoit is involved. Adversarial relationship with superintendents. Collaborative spirit needed with superintendents. Work to solve problems and truly interested in hearing without being reactionary.
* Need someone with at telescope and microscope. Vision for where we are going to be in 30 years. Understanding of daily challenges with microscope. Concerned about school principals to get everything done; change is been incredible. Job description has changed by support has not kept up. Teachers as well are experiencing it. Simplify projects; Pressure of kids with assessments (state and local). Simplify assessments (time and number).
* Impact of poverty in early childhood experiences for students; District must find ways to address; All day Kindergarten. Opportunities and funding are needed. Commissioner that understands the adverse experiences for children related to early education.
* Local control in decision-making has changed; Balance in local and state control.
* Someone from Kentucky to simplify things.
* Time to talk about kids as “who” rather than an assessment; testing grinder.
* System is 2nd to none in our state- issues to correct; Have to improve the compliance issue, but the end goal is positive.
* KDE needs to get back to being a service agency rather than a compliance agency.
* Need to freeze on adding new to the system. System is on overload
* Too much testing
* Change testing to formative rather than summative. Testing about learning not a number at the end of the day. How do we work within the system and grow the system to grow the players within the system.
* Focused on student achievement; - life ready more than college ready. Focused on the whole child
* Commissioner that listens not to defend the system, but how we can improve the system. Don’t add change; Change the four pillars are maxed out due to burn out.
* Differences in districts; Different realities in districts; New commissioner recognize the differences – Not one size fits all. Differiencation is needed.
* Tell us what we are accountable for and let us figure it out.
* Commissioner that understands the diversity of the state. Diversity defines NKY.
* Some flexibility for the diversity.
* Kentucky had charters before the term charters – Independent school districts
* Federalization of education – freedom for diversity has dimished. Need to get out of a waiver system, loss of customization for students.
* Career Pathways need to be reshaped to reflect today rather than 30 years ago.
* Need someone that can perform on the national level; waiver process.
* Commissioner that understands true career pathways and readiness.
* NKY region is growing, results in willingness to ADA releasing.
* Potential loss of communities for merging of school districts.
* Need a Kentucky Commissioner from our state – State Superintendent
* Refining the work with flexibility by districts.
* Get back to mentality of CEO network – Commissioner is leader of Superintendents collaboratively
* Superintendents need to be seen as partners.
* Chairperson from LSAC should report directly to State Board
* SAC Chairperson should report to State Board to create the collaboration perspective that is valued.
* Invited and showing up
* Collaboration is needed; Superintendents need to come together to solve issues/barriers keeping us from the completing the work. We are on the right track, dig deep and simplify where we can. Superintendents need to be part of the conversation.
* Opportunities for input needed more frequently than once a year.
* Collaborative outgrowth needed
* Buy into the system is needed
* Commissioner that works with the K groups; Collaboration with all groups
* Disposition of Gene
* Someone willing to listen and consider different views.
* Commissioner that thinks educationally and politically.