

February 17, 2017

Dear Oakland Board of Education,

We are families, educators, school staff, and community leaders who want Oakland's public schools to thrive so every student can reach their full potential. During the week of January 16th, 2017, more than 100 of us attended four listening sessions on the search for Oakland's next superintendent hosted by GO Public Schools Oakland, and a Town Hall meeting co-hosted with Oakland Unified School District, the Oakland NAACP, and the Unity Council.

Representatives from each listening session gathered to share perspectives, experiences, and the feedback heard at each session. The qualities below represent a synthesis of our findings.

We need Oakland's next Superintendent to be a systems thinker, experienced educator, community-driven listener, equity-focused facilitator, and a committed Oakland advocate.

Systems Thinker: This person will have experience effectively managing multiple departments toward a unified vision and goals. They will strategically leverage the talent and function of the departments toward successful student outcomes.

Experienced Educator: This person will have a track record of working in schools and in administration and improving outcomes for students. This person deeply understands the needs of students, teachers, school leadership, parents, and school communities.

Community-driven Listener: This person will have a history of effectively working with a diverse community, sharing power, and making decisions with those closest to students. This person values the community's multiple voices and makes decisions based on the community's experience.

Equity-focused Leader: This person has demonstrated a history of addressing historic inequities within a diverse community. This person is committed to ensuring that resources are prioritized for students with special needs, English language learners, and other underserved communities. This person is dedicated to hiring staff who reflect Oakland's student body population, and promoting instruction in our classroom honors student's culture and needs.

Committed Oakland Advocate: This person knows and values Oakland, our history, and is familiar with the issues that we face. This person is committed to immersing themselves in Oakland and will persevere to see their work through. This person acknowledges that the work of Superintendent of OUSD is difficult and is committed to staying in Oakland and in this role for the long term.

We are proud of our city and know that our community is committed to the students of Oakland. In many ways Oakland serves as an example for the rest of the country, but we have yet to

provide our students the education they deserve. We are looking for someone who is ready to lead **with** us as we face this monumental task in the challenging years ahead.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Haskell, Educator

Tamara Henry, Educator

George Holland, NAACP President

Danielle King, Parent

Yolanda Magaña, Parent

Robin Thompson-Webb, Educator

Connie "Momma" Williams, Grandparent