

HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUM 1/8/2020 (24)

January 8, 2020

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Your responses to these two questions help us recruit quality candidates.

1. What makes your community a good place to live?

1. Really great balance of a community with many amenities but with a small town feel
2. There are plenty of resources for special needs family
3. Good airport for a small city
4. Active outdoor lifestyle
5. Lots of natural beauty – lake, mountains and beautiful scenery
6. Refugee resettlement community with many resources for them
7. 42 languages spoken at high school
8. 38% of kids in the district are students of color
9. Vibrant artsy community -- it is a cultural mecca for Vermont in general
It is a university town
Close to Montreal
Most of the people within a two hour drive speak French at home
Low crime rates
Flagship community and district of the state
It is close to Vermont!
Close connection with our state legislators
Vibrant local politics
Education is highly valued

2. What makes this a good school district - for students and staff?

1. High percent of public school participation versus private schools
2. Class sizes are small
3. Refugee settlement – very large diverse population
4. Students graduate with a level of cultural competency that is unique to Vermont
5. Wider array of alternative academic opportunities at the high school and primary level, also with college and graduate programs
6. Strong opportunities for environmental programs

7. There is strong dual enrollment program with local colleges
8. Magnet schools – 2 out of 6 elementary schools – one is art integration and second is education for sustainability
9. Amazing teachers dedicated to their craft
10. Innovative teachers
11. Family and community are fantastic
12. Wonderful population of students and family – diverse skills and backgrounds – strong sense of community
13. Lots of opportunity for challenge and growth
14. Employment opportunity for young kids who speak French
15. Community agencies helps schools with special needs students – very strong support
16. There is full inclusion for special needs students
17. Huge variety for after school activities for grades 6-12 that is free
18. Very strong sports opportunities
19. High school is being renovated – 70 million dollar renovation project!
20. Very strong music and theater departments at all the schools
21. High parent and community involvement
22. Strong ethos of inclusion – of special needs students and families of diverse backgrounds
23. Very high level of civic engagement amongst schools
24. There is a widely renowned farm to school program.

Your responses to these questions help us to screen applicants and the school committee to choose finalists.

3. What are the issues that a new superintendent needs to know about as he or she comes into the district?

1. Insufficient money to meet all the needs
2. Understand the state education funding mechanism
3. Expectation of transparency and community involvement
4. This is a town meeting state – superintendent will hear many diverse opinions
5. Focus on student support services particularly with students with disabilities
6. They need to understand the history of full inclusion in the state of Vermont
7. Superintendent must be a bridge builder for communities who are marginalized
8. There is a high turnover of students here compared to the rest of the state
9. Burlington has 40% home ownership compared to the rest of the state at 70%

10. Issue with Human Resources for many years
11. 20% of population have kids in school
12. State wide discussion about proficiency based learning (PBL) is ongoing and a big concern for some
13. Schools also provide a number of social services programs, cultural liaison for EL students and their families.
14. Dental, food security and mental health services are available to people who qualify.
15. Opioid addiction problem in the city and state
16. Perception that Burlington schools are not as good as neighboring districts.
17. The media scrutinizes the school district more so than other districts.
18. Act 46 is a priority for Vermont but not a priority for Burlington yet
19. A large achievement gap between white middle class students and historically marginalized students
20. Student body is engaged and active – superintendent should be supportive of that

4. What skills, qualities and characteristics will the new superintendent need in order to be successful?

1. Excellent communicator to all stakeholders in the community
2. Will need a high level of cultural intelligence and a willingness to continue to learn; continue to learn and has knowledge about equity literacy
3. Need to be a strong supporter of academic rigor
4. Continually aware of the needs of the community especially special needs students
5. Experience with construction management including continually communicating with the public about projects about the financial status of the projects
6. Experience overseeing large capital projects, including PR aspects
7. Ability to work with a strong union – seven bargaining units
8. Willingness to live in our community and send their children to our schools
9. Prior superintendent experience or similar relevant experience
10. A good manager as well as a leader
11. Experience working with diverse community
12. Growth mindset about all students
13. Makes decisions in the best interest of students
14. Able to make relationships with faculty, students and staff

15. Superintendent who views the central office as collaborators with the teachers and staff

16. Prioritize hiring, supporting and retaining outstanding teachers

17.