

Communication Log 2015-16

Initiated By										
	Date	Responded By	Date	Topic	Phone	Letter	Email	Meeting	Other	
Dave Buck	1/18/16	na		In search of Superintendent Excellence			x			
Dave Buck	1/21/16	na		Removal from committee			x			
Cathy Modde	2/22/16	na		Congratulations on Superintendent Selection			x			

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 11:00 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: Fwd: In Search of Superintendent Excellence

For the communication log.

Thanks

Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>

Date: January 18, 2016 at 10:43:36 PM CST

To: Sarah Riss <Riss.Sarah@wgmail.org>, John Simpson <Simpson.John@wgmail.org>, Diane Moore <Moore.Diane@wgmail.org>, "vespereny.cathy@wgmail.org" <vespereny.cathy@wgmail.org>, Linda Holliday <Holliday.Linda@wgmail.org>, "addison.david@wgmail.org" <addison.david@wgmail.org>, Amy Clendennen <Clendennen.amy@wgmail.org>, "dugan.jean@wgmail.org" <dugan.jean@wgmail.org>, "loher.steve@wgmail.org" <loher.steve@wgmail.org>, "smith.emerson@wgmail.org" <smith.emerson@wgmail.org>, Joel Oliver <oliver.joel@wgmail.org>, "shipley.michael@wgmail.org" <shipley.michael@wgmail.org>, Jon Clark <clark.jon@wgmail.org>, "zitzmann.nancy@wgmail.org" <zitzmann.nancy@wgmail.org>, "denbow.kristin@wgmail.org" <denbow.kristin@wgmail.org>, "schiller.bill@wgmail.org" <schiller.bill@wgmail.org>, "arnold.tony@wgmail.org" <arnold.tony@wgmail.org>, "clifton.renee@wgmail.org" <clifton.renee@wgmail.org>, Nicholas Kirschman <kirschman.nicholas@wgmail.org>, "John E. Thomas" <thomas.johne@wgmail.org>, John Raimondo <raimondo.john@wgmail.org>, "thompson.angela@wgmail.com" <thompson.angela@wgmail.com>, "yeggins.shiree@wgmail.org" <yeggins.shiree@wgmail.org>, David Schuster <schuster.david@wgmail.org>, "cashel.tim@wgmail.org" <cashel.tim@wgmail.org>, "moore.kristin@wgmail.org" <moore.kristin@wgmail.org>, "stein.jeff@wgmail.org" <stein.jeff@wgmail.org>, "allen.chris@wgmail.org" <allen.chris@wgmail.org>, "dunn.eric@wgmail.org" <dunn.eric@wgmail.org>, "siebe.kara@wgmail.org" <siebe.kara@wgmail.org>, "roberts.betty@wgmail.org" <roberts.betty@wgmail.org>, "leftridge.steve@wgmail.org" <leftridge.steve@wgmail.org>, "knobbe.don@wgmail.org" <knobbe.don@wgmail.org>, "picker.lisa@wgmail.org" <picker.lisa@wgmail.org>, "ibur.edward@wgmail.org" <ibur.edward@wgmail.org>, "larose.wendy@wgmail.org" <larose.wendy@wgmail.org>, "hildreth.roni@wgmail.org" <hildreth.roni@wgmail.org>, "oliver.liz@wgmail.org" <oliver.liz@wgmail.org>, "meyer.dawn@wgmail.org" <meyer.dawn@wgmail.org>, "petit.lisa@wgmail.org" <petit.lisa@wgmail.org>, "wells.shari@wgmail.org" <wells.shari@wgmail.org>, "evans.shari@wgmail.org" <evans.shari@wgmail.org>, "rombach.rob@wgmail.org" <rombach.rob@wgmail.org>, "boyle.jenny@wgmail.org" <boyle.jenny@wgmail.org>, "boothman.lori@wgmail.org" <boothman.lori@wgmail.org>, "blumenkemper.jennifer@wgmail.org" <blumenkemper.jennifer@wgmail.org>, "muldrow.mike@wgmail.org" <muldrow.mike@wgmail.org>, "wichard.sarah@wgmail.org"

<wichard.sarah@wgmail.org>, "ghidina.nancy@wgmail.org" <ghidina.nancy@wgmail.org>,
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Cc: "bitikofer@timesnewspapers.com" <bitikofer@timesnewspapers.com>,
"newsroom@timesnewspapers.com" <newsroom@timesnewspapers.com>,
"holliday.art@ksdk.com" <holliday.art@ksdk.com>, "welchg@webstergroves.org"
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"bond.tracey@wgmail.org" <bond.tracey@wgmail.org>, "cocos.kerryanne@wgmail.org"
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Subject: In Search of Superintendent Excellence

Hi all WGSD Brilliant Educators,

Although it's almost over, Happy MLK Day to each of you today. I hope you celebrated the life of Dr. King in your own way and managed to take a welcomed break and breath of life and peace.

Contrary to form, I will make this short. This is not what I think, but what I feel and know in my heart:

1. My family has lived in Webster Groves for 16 years and I have had one graduate from WGHS, two two juniors at the high school. Sarah Riss is the best superintendent the school district has ever had. Bar none. Not even close. Other superintendents have been Ok to good, but Sarah is GREAT! Sorry folks, I just call them as I see, feel, hear and even smell them (ever see the awesome movie, "Scent of a Woman" with Al Pacino in his Best Actor winning role?). By her own words, despite having too many duties and obligations, Sarah stands for one thing above all others: CARING for EVERYONE - students, faculty, staff, administration, board and community. Don't you agree?

2. My advise in your superintendent search: clone Sarah. Don't delay, pass GO and just do it. NOW!!!

3. If that is not possible within your undefendable short deadline and timeframe, then please heed this: one of many reasons our world is so messed up today is that alpha males have occupied our world's leadership positions in ALL sectors of life for far too long and have totally messed things up for all of us. If I was supreme commander of the world, I would put 1) women in charge in all leadership positions, or 2) men with a softer, gentler, quieter and kinder side to them. Around the world, two examples immediately come to mind, 1) the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, and 2) Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau (he's really handsome,

to boot!). These are two outstanding role models. Forget your 5 conventional and uninspired criteria. Just model your candidates after these two leaders and you will do just fine.

4 . Within the district, I think these qualities are personified and embodied in every one of your awesome principals: first the women: Kris (double duty), Nancy, Lisa, Stacie, Julie and Marty. And the men: Jon, Bill and Tony. And in the district office: Diane, Cathy and Linda, and John and John. In fact, to be perfectly blunt and honest, I would put any of the district's teachers up against an outside candidate every day of the week and twice on Sunday. That's how strongly I feel about this.

5. As I shared at a previous board meeting, I believe that promoting from within is far preferred and provides greater and more benefits than hiring from the outside. Brent Underwood was hired from the outside. He was good. Sarah was promoted from within and she is GREAT. Plus, I bet she saved you the higher salary firms normally have to pay folks on the outside to come, not to mention relocation costs and longer time frames to the new hire's start date. That's the difference and that's the choice the board has to make. Personally, I would be ecstatic if one of the above named internal educators had the vision and courage to step up and put their proverbial hat in the ring. If they choose not to, I will totally respect their choice and still love them in the morning.

I submitted my name for possible selection to help interview the different superintendent candidates. After reading this letter, you will no doubt decide to take a pass on me. And that's OK. Because if all the candidates are from the outside, I'll take a pass.

Finally, all first names have meaning. For example, David means "friend". And the meaning of Sarah is: Princess. And, in this one person's eyes, Sarah has been our own Fairy Princess or Princess Bride to our district.

Hope this makes sense. ANYONE copied may please respond back to me confidentially or copy the world. It makes no difference to me but all of you DO make a huge difference to me. The choice is yours. Choose wisely.

Peace.

Dave

Dad to high school juniors and my twins, Annie and Sawyer, and granddad to Br

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: Please Remove Dave Buck from Consideration as a District Parent/Superintendent Candidate Interviewer

For the communication log.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: Dave Buck [mailto:dave@buckstl.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 12:34 AM
To: Sarah Riss; David Addison; Amy Clendennen; Jean Dugan; Joel Oliver; Steve Loher; Emerson Smith; Michael Shipley; Cathy Vespereny
Subject: Please Remove Dave Buck from Consideration as a District Parent/Superintendent Candidate Interviewer

Hi Everyone,

Given the awesome, inspiring and courageous news received just tonight at the Buck homestead on S. Elm, I can longer be considered to serve as an objective & unbiased district parent interviewer of the three superintendent candidates, for reasons I have already publicly made known. Said differently, I am now completely and unabashedly unobjective and unbiased. Thanks you and good luck on your choice. Choose wisely.

Peace.
Dave

Lori Medlin

From: Lori Medlin
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: Congrats on your Superintendent selection!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cathy Modde** <cmodde@krjarch.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 12:11 PM
Subject: Congrats on your Superintendent selection!
To: Jean Dugan <jbdugan@gmail.com>

Jean,

I was happy to hear John Simpson was selected as the new Superintendent! I met John a couple of times when KRJ talked with him about some needs the district might have. His talents and his commitment to the district are gifts to our community.

As a resident of the Webster Groves School District and an employee of an architecture firm that specializes in education, I'm very interested in ways we can work together! If the Board maintains a list of firms to contact about future Planning and Architecture needs, we would sure appreciate being on the list!

Thanks, Jean,

Cathy Modde

Director of Marketing

cmodde@krjarch.com

Office: [314-432-7020](tel:314-432-7020)

Cell: [314-606-4234](tel:314-606-4234)

Kromm, Rikimaru and Johansen, Inc.

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