

## **Focus Group Responses – Board of Education** **Lewis-Palmer School District 38**

**Date/Consultant:** Monday, January 7, 2019. Randy Zila

Board: Chris Taylor, Theresa Phillips, Tiffiney Upchurch, Mark Pfoff, Matthew Clawson

### **1. TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY. WHAT WOULD I WANT TO KNOW IF I WERE CONSIDERING MOVING THERE?**

- Parental involvement, engaged
- People engaged in district, interested
- Community has diversity – retirees to families with preschool students
- Outdoor oriented
- Desirable location
- Affluent community
- Community hungry for information
- Community passionate about kids
- Bedroom community
- Schools are high performing
- Community is well educated
- Community has high expectations
- Schools have lots of support from parents
- Community is growing but still has small town feel
- High graduation rate
- Safe and wholesome community

### **2. WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STRENGTHS?**

- Academic excellence
- High graduation rate
- Small schools
- Teachers are engaged in schools
- Teacher communications with parents/students excellent
- Teachers and other staff have passion for education
- Neighborhood schools
- Students are motivated and lots of empathy with adults
- A lot of parental involvement
- Schools help students reach their maximum potential and abilities with limited finances
- Administrators provide excellent support
- Support staff is excellent
- Teachers are great
- Stakeholders are great
- Great opposition – makes for engagement

### **3. WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT'S CHALLENGES OR AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT THAT THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?**

- Some parents are too engaged and are helicopter parents

- Some parents are overzealous, and can be abusive and disrespectful to administrators and teachers
- Some parents feel they are entitled
- Following processes and being process driven, not enough metrics for process improvement
- Some of information to community has not been reliable or consistent
- Financially challenged and now forced to use portable classrooms – not ideal solution
- Growth and finding enough spaces
- Currently need additional middle school
- Passionate disagreements border on rudeness and abusiveness
- Not timely with information
- Challenge to reach every student
- Messages don't always get to all interested parties
- Too much reliance on people to come find information

**4. GIVEN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE IDENTIFIED, WHAT QUALITIES AND/OR EXPERIENCES DO YOU BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL IN A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?**

- Great communicator
- Same core values as community
- High expectations
- Good leader
- Approachable
- Understands balance of listening vs. reactive response
- Experience i.e., asst. supt or supt with proven track record
- Listens to BOD and interprets what BOD is saying
- Outreach skills
- Involved in community
- Servant leader
- Team player
- Thick skinned
- Has been an educator
- High reflective skills
- Engaged
- Resourceful
- Motivated

**5. IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

- Listens
- Be engaged
- Leave district better than you found it
- Get a mentor and seek advice
- Golden rule- treat others as you would like to be treated
- Seek for understanding to be understood