

WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Allen Park Public Schools
Dr. John Sturock

Crestwood School District
Dr. Laurine VanValkenburg

School District of the City of Dearborn
Mr. Brian Whiston

Dearborn Heights School District #7
Mr. Todd Thieken

School District of the City of Detroit
Mr. Jack Martin, Emergency Manager

Ecorse Public Schools
Mr. Thomas Parker

Flat Rock Community Schools
Ms. Joan Donaldson

School District of the City of Garden City
Dr. Michelle Cline

Gibraltar School District
Mr. Bruce Burger

Grosse Ile Township Schools
Mr. William Eis

Grosse Pointe Public School System
Dr. Thomas Harwood

School District of the City of Hamtramck
Mr. Tom Niczay

School District City of Harper Woods
Mr. Todd Biederwolf

School District City of Highland Park
Mr. G. Weatherspoon, Emergency Manager

Huron School District
Mr. Richard P. Naughton

School District of the City of Lincoln Park
Mr. Terry Dangerfield, Interim

Livonia Public Schools
Dr. Randy Liepa

Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Public
Ms. Cora Kelly

Northville Public Schools
Ms. Mary Kay Gallagher

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Dr. Michael Meissen

Redford Union Schools
Mr. Ronald Stoneman

School District of the City of River Rouge
Mr. Derrick Coleman

Riverview Community School District
Mr. Russ Pickell

Romulus Community Schools
Ms. Marjie McAnally

South Redford School District
Mr. Brian Galdes

Southgate Community School District
Ms. Leslie Hainrihar

Taylor School District
Ms. Diane Allen

Trenton Public Schools
Mr. Rod Wakeham

Van Buren Public Schools
Mr. Michael Van Tassel

Wayne RESA
Mr. Christopher Wigent

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Dr. Michele Harmala

Westwood Community School District
Mrs. Sue Carnell

Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
Mr. Mark Greathead

School District of the City of Wyandotte
Dr. Catherine Cost

August 26, 2014

Mr. John C. Austin, President
State Board of Education
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear President Austin:

On behalf of the 32 K-12 Superintendents in Wayne County, I am pleased to submit a list of characteristics that we would like to see considered as the State Board of Education begins the search for a new State Superintendent. As you are fully aware, this is an extremely critical hire as we look to the future of public education in our state. We hope that our input and the input of many others will be carefully considered throughout the process.

Our thanks to you and the rest of the State Board of Education for your continued leadership as we all work to improve student achievement for all students in the State of Michigan. In addition, thank you for the opportunity to provide you and the Board with input on this very important matter.

Best wishes in your search for the next State Superintendent.

Sincerely,



Russell E. Pickell, President
Wayne County School Superintendents Association

**State Superintendent Search
Candidate Characteristics
Submitted by the Wayne County School Superintendents Association
August 26, 2014**

- Be totally committed to *all children* in words and actions
- Ensure that instructional achievement is the driver for all actions
- Leadership experience in a Michigan K-12 school district and/or ISD – preference would be given to a leader who has experience in a diverse set of districts (size, social economic status, etc.)
- Understands the need for universal accountability (State Superintendent, MDE, IDSs, school districts, public school academies, etc.)
- Understand the need for flexibility and creativity in the area of educational policy and other areas where appropriate and necessary
- Have the same expectations/accountability for self as for others
- Cognizant of the diverse challenges of local superintendents; resists “one size fits all” leadership.
- Lead education and not be led by politics of Lansing.
- Coordinate expectations and requirements of varying departments requesting data collection from districts.
- Make every attempt to build consensus between all education partners
- Value the input of internal and external stakeholders including those that might have diverse perspectives
- Exhibit and practice courageous leadership and do so with integrity
- Possesses a vision that includes a positive future for public education