



## Florida School Boards Association SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH



# COMMUNITY FORUMS and FOCUS GROUPS

Date: 2.21.23

Location: Manatee High School

Facilitators: Dr. Bill Vogel and John Reichert

Participants: 10

List the strengths and those areas of the Manatee County School District that the next superintendent will need to understand and continue to support.

1. Board and Superintendent listen to community input
2. Strong schools have unique programs to meet their students' needs
3. Overall state academic ranking improving
4. Support of millage referendum and its positive outcomes
5. Strategic Plan in place through 2026
6. Facilities upkeep positive and capital projects address growth

What are the critical needs and challenges that the next superintendent will need to understand and address?

1. Title 1 schools treated differently (dress codes, rules, etc.)
2. Growth and population shifts
3. Hiring qualified staff in all areas by offering competitive salaries
4. Retention of staff
5. Language barriers for limited English speakers
6. Manage direction from the state
7. Prepare students to be problem solvers and critical thinkers
8. Addressing new technologies
9. Competition with charter and private schools
10. District wide culture focusing on student success
11. Create new learning opportunities relevant to new careers
12. Engage families in schools and communities
13. Don't abandon minorities when recruiting
14. Review Administrative costs vs. Instructional costs
15. Inflation Impact

What personal qualities, professional experience, and other skills should the Board look for in the next superintendent?

1. Educational leadership experience in Florida (9)
2. Students first mentality (6)
3. Collaborative (3)
4. Large district experience (1)



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5. Principal experience (1)
6. Career/Tech background (1)
7. Multi-cultural sensitivity including migrants and immigrants (1)
8. Sense of humor (1)
9. Decisiveness (1)
10. Integrity

Please note:

Numbers next to some priorities indicate priorities of respondents.