



United School Administrators of Kansas
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December 10, 2009

Janet Waugh, Chair
Kansas State Board of Education
120 Southeast 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Waugh:

USA|Kansas* would like to thank the Kansas State Board of Education for their continued leadership and for inviting administrators to participate in the process for selecting the next Commissioner of Education. We know that the Board shares our commitment to ensuring that each and every child in Kansas receives a quality education that will help them reach their potential and become successful, productive adults.

Education administrators appreciate the opportunity to work with the State Board of Education to identify a quality candidate who will focus on uniting the education community to improve our outstanding public education system and continue to move us forward during this unprecedented economic crisis and time of great uncertainty.

While several administrators representing USA|Kansas and our member associations will be participating in the focus groups facilitated by the National Association of School Boards of Education, the Board of Directors wanted to provide feedback, as an association, to the State Board on the qualities, skills, or critical attributes that we would value in the next Commissioner of Education.

The USA|Kansas Board of Directors developed a list of attributes that I would like to share with you and the other members of the Kansas State Board of Education. We recognize that the list of desired characteristics could be endless, so we worked to focus on certain traits that are especially critical. This list is provided to you for your consideration as you undertake a process that will be closely scrutinized by many different stakeholders.

Administrators believe that the next Commissioner of Education must:

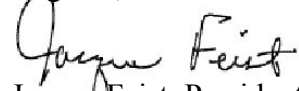
- be an **advocate** for public education. Specifically, the Commissioner should be the face of Public Education and the voice for all Kansas Kids – at the state and national level.
- have a **vision** for the Kansas State Department of Education and for K-12 public education in Kansas;
- be a proven **and effective leader** with a desire to build capacity within the system;

- have **experience** working with a state department or agency, elected boards and legislative representatives;
- have experience working in the public education system; and
- be able to bring together **diverse shareholders** and **create support** for a quality education system.

Finally, the USA|Kansas Board of Directors also ask that you consider including administrators in the **screening and selection process**.

Again, thank you for your leadership and for working with administrators as you move forward with selecting the next Commissioner of Education. Preparing our children requires a shared commitment, collaboration, and open dialogue among all stakeholders. Thank you for being partners in education.

Regards,



Jacqué Feist, President
USA|Kansas Board of Directors
Principal, Dodge City High School

*USA|Kansas represents more than 2,000 individual members and ten member associations:

Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals
Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Business Officials
Kansas Association of School Personnel Administrators
Kansas Assoc for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals
Kansas Council of Career and Technical Education Administrators
Kansas School Public Relations Association