



Burley Principal Interview Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 27, 2023 – 7:00pm

Location: Burley Elementary Cafeteria

Called to order: Called to order at 7:32pm by Elliot Ransom

Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically): Nick Anderson, Bob Blitstein, Ryan Griffin, Tony Johnson, Jessica Macaluso, Rob Moon, Elliot Ransom, Sidney Reed, Carolyn Skibba, Michael Valitchka

Present: Nick Anderson, Bob Blitstein, Jessica Macaluso, Elliot Ransom, Sidney Reed, Michael Valitchka

Absent: Ryan Griffin, Tony Johnson, Rob Moon, Carolyn Skibba

Public Comment

a. 3rd grade teacher

- i. I was with Ms. Hammaker for most of the day. She has been a principal and would be a veteran principal but these were my observations. Her teacher forum answers were vague. She was stronger in the student session. I felt like her community session was also vague.

b. 5th grade teacher

- i. This is Jenny Crall's next step and she has all the things we are looking for; her literacy background could not be topped. Her love of literacy and love of students. Felt as a teacher that she would be a good leader for Burley. Tonya was a good candidate as well but a warmer feeling with Jenny and background with instruction. Instructional leadership is what we need.

c. DL Teacher

- i. Thanked the council for the process. Experienced great loss losing Plocher. I think Burley is looking for a big heart. Both candidates could handle the job. Jenny's heart and interaction felt different. She did a read aloud during her student forum. Her follow-up questions to the students were student centered. Both candidates could do the job and the heart piece was very apparent.



d. 2nd grade teacher

- i. Escorted Ms. Crall all day. I would really like to work with her. Talked about the books she was reading and she was asking about professional texts she has been reading or would read with a new staff. She was prompting for specificity which made me feel like she would be a strong leader at this school in particular. Reading, PD, teams of teachers, and getting everyone's voices heard. Very refreshing.

e. Kindergarten teacher

- i. Liked both candidates in different ways. Both qualified in many ways. Jenny is qualified for this school. Ms. Crall for her literacy background and collaboration with the teachers and community. Adapting the curriculum and changing with the class in front of you. When she spoke to the points of community and connection I felt a strong pull to her answers. Able to check in on students that are having a hard time. Not just seen as a disciplinarian. Growing with the teachers and keeping up with research together. Very approachable and warm. Happy to be in a room with her.
- ii. Tonya did have a literacy and tech focus in the teacher forum but felt more of a top-down approach with preparing for high school. Concerned because not all of elementary years is thinking about high school. Felt like they needed to be on grade level and was missing some of the social emotional elements of an elementary school. Asked about instruction in the school and she mentioned "instruction won't be that different between elementary to high school if you look at the REACH evaluation rubric". I felt like it was important to work together and preferred the mentality of Ms. Crall.

f. Teaching Assistant

- i. Ditto to what everyone has said. Might not be as experienced but so excited by Ms. Crall. She wanted to come into the teacher room and introduce herself individually to each person and shake hands. She wanted to build a strong relationships even from the beginning. The biggest difference I noticed was that when the 2 candidates were answering the question from the students about violating student rights, Ms. Crall seemed to know about the students' bill of rights and creating a safe environment for them. Hammaker's answer felt that it was more procedural rather than a more SEL approach that we would do in elementary.



g. Teaching Assistant

- i. I would like to make an instructional comment: I came to Burley because of the instruction because of what happens here in the building and the culture is so important. To think that high school instruction is the same as the magic we create here would be hard. The teachers at Burley need someone to bring us together and allow us to reform a bond. Ms. Crall would be able to bring that. Ms. Hammaker could easily run the school but I think that Ms. Crall would be able to bring the magic into Burley.

h. Parent

- i. Escorted Jenny throughout the process. I cannot really know the scope of answers in the teachers forum because I leave that up to the teachers. The feeling was so warm with the teachers. With the students she was so genuine. She wanted to bring a book. With the parents in the community forum Hammaker might have all the right answers and the parents might resonate with the message of preparing for high school. I feel like Ms. Crall was able to articulate what she would do in a K-8 building, keep the Burley spirit alive, and move the kids. For selfish reasons, Hammker could easily work alongside Friends of Burley as a veteran principal. I think that Jenny would easily work alongside the group and grow together. Both candidates were great but I think Ms. Crall can bring the community together.

i. Carolina Estay, LSC Relations Specialist

- i. Introduces herself as the LSC representative. Highest functioning council she has worked with because the team has been working independently. You all functioning as high as you are is what your next leader needs. Did not want to stop the party but just wanted to check in on the process.

j. Bob Blitstein

- i. Burley Magic and The Magic of Burley could be used in future marketing

k. Elliot Ransom

- i. Thanked the council for successfully completing the community day and Sidney for executing the event

l. Mike Valachika

- i. As a council member I would like to generally review the summary of teacher, community, and student feedback results. Community forum



feedback found Jenny warm, inviting, and shorter tenured in administration roles, and stated Tonya is confident, impressive tenure, and interested in experience with building partnerships. The teacher feedback was voiced in this meeting and is echoed in the exit survey feedback that the teachers would want to be able to work alongside and grow with Ms. Crall. The student feedback appreciated both candidates for similar reasons of safety, inclusion, and experience.

The council did not have quorum and did not go into closed session.

Next steps

- a. Next LSC meeting will be Sunday July 30th at 2:30pm to discuss awarding a contract

II. Adjourn

- a. Elliot Ransom motioned to adjourn at 8:26pm. Nick Anderson seconded. Approved unanimously.