

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64
Statement of Board President Anthony Borrelli
January 30, 2014

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who have worked to bring the District 64 Superintendent search to its apex.

Identifying a need, realizing personal qualities, elements and items necessary to resolve that need, and searching for an individual who embodies those qualities is thankfully not a task that is conducted often. However, once undertaken, it requires the full focus, attention and efforts on the part of many individuals.

This search journey was initiated by the Board acceptance of Dr. Philip Bender's resignation on September 9, 2013. At this time I would like to thank Dr. Bender for his time with District 64. Dr. Bender's time is marked by one of financial stability, successful implementation of a new teachers' contract and most notably a full architectural evaluation and initial rehabilitation of the District's ageing infrastructure. In the past three years, the Board has authorized \$10.4 million dollars of capital funding and has initiated the process for bond authorization to fund a further \$8.6 million, for a total of almost \$19 million, to provide the most immediate restorative needs in our buildings. While there is a further \$30 million of identified facility needs yet to be satisfied, we have resolved some of the most vexing and necessary items to make our schools and buildings safe from flooding and mold, improve accessibility and usability, and most importantly, enhance the educational atmosphere.

On September 28, 2013, the Board spent the better part of a day meeting with four search firms to identify a partner for our journey to select a new Superintendent. Ultimately, the Board announced at our meeting of October 8, 2013 that BWP & Associates, a national search firm, had been chosen and would work with three representatives, they themselves former elementary school superintendents: Dr. Mark Friedman, Dr. Bruce Brown and Mr. Steven Griesbach. BWP conducted an extensive process including: a District-wide survey to identify the characteristics of a new Superintendent that were deemed important; advertising the open position in journals and at meetings; and utilizing professional contacts and referrals to identify individuals who were ready to seek new opportunities. Ultimately, a select, highly qualified six individuals were chosen for a semifinal interview held on December 12 and 13. From that meeting the final two candidates were chosen. Despite the severe cold weather that cancelled one meeting, each had their own full-day review with the community on January 9 and 10. Following those interviews, the Board had a unanimous consensus on the preferred candidate. We are here tonight at the culmination of this process.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Board of Education who have not faltered or wavered, through tireless deliberation and meetings, from the singular purpose of striving to place this District in the best possible light and position it can be in.

I would like to single out the herculean efforts of the District's senior administrators and the administrative staff who have worked diligently and without fail to help bring this day to fruition.

I also would like to thank the many representative groups that make up the District, such as: members of the PREA and PRATA; building support staff; PTO representatives; parents and students; members of the community and many other groups not mentioned, for their efforts

through participation in the online Superintendent Profile survey, and attending and providing the Board with written comments at the final candidates' forums to help complete the process.

I would especially like to thank the Board's two final candidates, Dr. Robert Machak and Dr. Laurie Heinz. Each of these candidates possesses the superior qualities and skills of leadership, communication, management and vision that the Board and community feel are necessary to lead District 64. Each willingly submitted and was subjected, rightly so, to a lengthy, grueling process of personal and professional evaluation for this position.

The Board has eventually chosen a preferred candidate, conducted a home district site visit for that candidate, and developed a compensation package favorable to the candidate and the District.

This preferred candidate embodies ALL of the qualities earmarked in the Superintendent Profile survey, and fulfills the requirements that the Board has determined are essential to lead this District as we incorporate 21st century learning, Common Core standards, PARCC assessments and, notwithstanding, revise the educational process as we transition to flipped classrooms and implement and utilize technology, not just as a tool, but a vital component of education to allow individualized instruction and differentiation.

Our preferred candidate possesses an enormous background in all of these educational components, which will allow the development of a long-range vision to lead the District in the evolving world of these academic changes.

Our preferred candidate possesses and has exhibited superior communication skills. Realizing that communication is a two-way street, these skills will allow all stakeholders the comfort of knowing that they have input and that their message is heard. These communication skills are also vital as we go forward with the educational changes to provide understanding and clarity and keep everyone focused on the long-range vision and goal.

Our preferred candidate possesses the tangible essence of leadership. Martin Luther King once said, "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus." Our preferred candidate is someone who will provide direction, find answers, give input and most importantly, pull the various elements of our District together so that all oars are pulling together for the common goal of developing this District to be one of the highest performing districts in the State of Illinois.

Our preferred candidate has a broad experience serving in several different districts and in various capacities. Her background includes serving as an elementary education teacher, where she was nominated for a Golden Apple Award; Assistant Principal; Principal, whose school was listed in the top 20 schools in Cook County; and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. She currently holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from National Louis University.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to proudly introduce our preferred candidate, who, commencing full time July 1, 2014, will assume the position of Superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge - Niles, Illinois, and who we expect will provide the vision and direction for the future to allow District 64 a leadership role in education in the State of Illinois.....Dr. Laurie Heinz.