

There are two approaches districts utilize in hiring a new superintendent: 1) promote from within the District; or 2) employ a regional/national search for candidates if there are deemed to be no capable internal candidates. Over the last two decades a majority of CCSD Superintendents have been hired by promoting within: Ron McWhirt 1999; Nancy J. McGinley, 2007 and Don Kennedy, 2022.

When a Board has the luxury of watching someone work in a high-level leadership capacity for an extended period of time, it gives its members a stronger indication of whether that person will become a successful Superintendent. Even Board members who voted in the minority Monday evening acknowledged that Anita Huggins has been successful as Deputy and Acting Superintendent.

In the spirit of transparency, all Board members were informed last Wednesday about the agenda item regarding a legal agreement with Ms. Huggins.

Because of the impending cut in federal ESSER funding, CCSD is facing one of the most serious budget challenges in decades. To state it clearly, over 300 positions are now funded by these monies. Unless we dramatically increase taxes to increase local funding, we have little means to replace federal dollars.

Decisions regarding how to maintain CCSD's academic momentum under Ms. Huggins' leadership, as we also face the potential loss of critical support and instructional staff, must be made by an experienced knowledgeable educator. District teachers and leaders have consistently communicated that they need stability and permanence. We cannot expect a person new to CCSD to lead the District at this vulnerable time.

We acknowledge there are differences of opinion. We humbly ask for the community to support Ms. Huggins and the District. We expect all members of the Board to unite in our continued effort of improving our district.

Keith S. Grybowski  
Leah Whatley  
Charlotte Bailey  
Pamela McKinney  
Ed Kelly