

PRINCIPAL SELECTION POLICY



PREPARATION

When the council learns that the school needs to hire a principal, they will:

1. Meet with the superintendent, or designee, (who will replace the principal as chair of the council) and review the Best Practices for Principal Selection document available on the Kentucky Association of School Councils website.
2. Select a trainer of their choice to deliver training in recruitment and interviewing techniques. The council *Vice-Chair (or designee) will arrange for this training on a date agreed upon by the council and call a special meeting of the council for this purpose with "Principal Selection Training" as the agenda.
3. Distribute copies of this policy to all members before the scheduled training and send a copy to the trainer who will be providing the selection training.

*The council may want to elect a Vice-Chairperson (if none exists) to act as a liaison and contact person with the Chair (superintendent) during this process.

SELECTION PROCESS

The council will:

1. Design and carry out processes to get stakeholder input on what traits will make the best leader for this school. Stakeholder input will involve but not be limited to faculty and staff, parents, and students (where appropriate).
2. Call a special meeting of the council and meet in open session to:
 - a. Discuss the process and the timeline for receiving applications, and other steps in the hiring process.
 - b. Develop a set of criteria for a strong candidate using the stakeholder input plus council members' ideas. The council will aim for a list of about 10 criteria. These criteria will not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, gender, marriage or family status, religion, political affiliation, disability, or age.
 - c. Use the criteria they have developed to write standard interview questions that fit those criteria and which will be asked of all candidates in in-person interviews.
 - d. Decide on other methods to use to gather information about the candidates. The methods may include (but not be limited to) some or all of the following: applications and résumés, references, applicant portfolios, open forums, and written responses to hypothetical work-related challenges.

3. Call a special meeting of the council and meet in closed session to:
 - a. Review all applications and written references and select applicants to interview.
 - b. Determine if information in the written applications and résumés points to any specialized questions that should be asked of a particular applicant and develop those questions if necessary.
4. Schedule interviews with each applicant who has been selected to be interviewed.
5. Conduct each interview in a special called meeting in closed session during which:
 - a. All the standardized questions will be asked in the same order for every candidate.
 - b. Any specialized or follow-up questions will be asked after the standardized questions.
 - c. A discussion will be held immediately following each interview about how well the applicant meets the criteria.
6. Hold closed session discussion of the merits of all applicants and work toward consensus on the final selection.
7. If the council is not satisfied with any of the candidates, the council should discuss the option of having an interim principal appointed by the superintendent until a suitable applicant is found.
8. Keep all closed session discussion confidential.

SELECTION OF THE NEW PRINCIPAL

After all information is gathered, the council will:

1. Meet in open session to vote for the final selection of a new principal.
2. Ask the superintendent to complete the hiring process.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our school improvement planning process.

Date Adopted: _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

NOTES ON USING THIS POLICY

CONNECTION TO COUNCIL BYLAWS: This policy should be referenced in your council bylaws in a section on council responsibilities and then attached at the end of the bylaws. There is no need to copy the whole policy into the body of the bylaws. KASC's Bylaws Kit models this.