



Simons Middle School



15.0 – Principal Selection

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 also elect a Vice-Chairperson (if none exists) to chair the council during the principal selection 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 with the superintendent any qualifications required by the Board, 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 resumes, 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 resumes 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.



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Principal Selection Cont.

6. Hold closed session discussion of the merits of all applicants and work toward consensus on the final selection.

SELECTION OF THE NEW PRINCIPAL

After all information is gathered, the council will:

1. Meet in open session to make the final selection of a new principal.
2. Notify the superintendent immediately of the council's choice. This choice is binding on the superintendent who will complete the hiring process.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our school Improvement Planning Process.

First Reading: July 28, 2015

Second Reading: August 3, 2015

Date Adopted: August 3, 2015

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

Signature: 

Council Chairperson's Initials: _____

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