

Scott Murray

From: Allison Schafer
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Scott Murray; Tanya Giovanni; Jim O'Rourke
Subject: Fwd: Statement on Leadership Qualities for New Superintendent

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lakis, Andrew" <Andrew.Lakis@teachforamerica.org>
Date: June 15, 2017 at 8:51:01 PM GMT+5:30
To: "aschafer@ncsba.org" <aschafer@ncsba.org>
Cc: Bettina Umstead <umstead.bettina@gmail.com>
Subject: **Statement on Leadership Qualities for New Superintendent**

Dear School Board Members,

It is my firm belief that the superintendent of Durham Public Schools must reimagine and reinvest in a system where teachers, school leaders, community members, and partners work collectively to expand opportunity for all children. This individual must create a culture rooted in the truth that all children regardless of background or circumstance can succeed, and fueled by the unwavering belief that Durham's future depends on us realizing this vision of educational equity.

We need a leader who can shape a vision for our community, who sees students and families as our greatest strength, and who accepts this role knowing they are building a framework for something that has never been achieved before—a just and equitable education system for all.

I know a superintendent alone cannot deliver on this promise. But they can and must embody this purpose and promote these values. Durham would benefit from a superintendent with personal proximity to the challenges and complexities preventing us from a more equitable experience for students, who recognizes current leaders inside our schools and attracts additional leaders from across communities, and who builds diverse coalitions committed to expanding opportunity and enriching life for all in our community.

I am hopeful this individual strives to build authentic relationships across lines of difference; champions ideas and policies that promote equity and excellence in our schools; and above all else inspires actions and empowers others to action. The individual who assumes the awesome responsibility of overseeing more than 30,000 students and 4,000 staff members must be capable of truly leading others.

A policy expert with their strategic thinking and knack for details can make progress in this role. So too can a tactician with their abilities to execute a plan. However, I believe we are reimagining a future here and through that difficult work—through progress and setbacks—we'll need a transformational leader who keeps adapting, acting, and moving us forward with courage.

The audacity of this work is great. As a father of two young boys—one who is a current Durham Public Schools student and one who will follow in his brother's footsteps—I know we will not deliver on this promise before their last days as high school seniors. Nevertheless I have a role to play in shaping the reimagined future I described. We all do. With the help of a superintendent who shares this belief, and inspires and empowers others through their leadership, I am confident this future will become reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to share input.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lakis
Executive Director
Teach For America—Eastern North Carolina