# TUSD SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE STAKEHOLDER INPUT

An Independent Analysis

## Prepared by

Daniel W. Eadens, EdD Associate Professor, Educational Leadership Northern Arizona University College of Education, P.O. Box 5774 Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5774 Email: daniel.eadens@nau.edu

Danielle Eadens, PhD Associate Professor of Practice, Special Education Northern Arizona University College of Education, P.O. Box 5774 Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5774 Email: danielle,eadens@nau.edu



**Executive Summary of TUSD Inquiry: An Independent Analysis** 

### Methods

The purpose of this quantitative analysis is based upon the results from an in-depth qualitative inquiry and is specifically intended to be used for consult to the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) as they move through their superintendent selection process. The two author's intentions were solely to contextualize the data. Implications of the findings could be very useful to better inform decisions surrounding applicants. Results of the findings could be beneficial in that this is an outside, independent third-party analysis performed by two expert researchers in full effort to promote validity and eliminate or reduce bias. Qualitative inquiry raw data were collected from school visits and interviews of stakeholders totaling 235 individuals (Appendix A, TUSD Stakeholder Raw Data). Each were specifically asked about their perceptions regarding the desired skills, knowledge, and attitudes which the new superintendent should possess. The goal of this analysis was simply to identify the strongest themes which emerged from the data. These themes form larger patterns that are accompanied with a few representative anonymous and simple quotes corresponding to their respective themes. Lastly, this effort will only be anonymously documented as consulting type of community service for the researchers with no expectation for monetary remuneration.

#### **Sampling and Data Parameters**

A sample, rather than census, provided the needed information quickly. The sheer size of the district negates the reasonableness of conducting a full census. This sample represented the larger population that would be too difficult to fully access and the sample mirrored the larger population well. To reduce any non-sampling errors caused by the way each inquiry was conducted and to ensure interrater reliability completely, only one consultant performed the inquiry, who elicited response with complete consistently. Although this was a convenient sample from the district, there was an informed judgement based upon the consultant's extensive education experience and familiarity with the characteristics of this population in particular. Additionally, this was a stratified purposeful sampling from several involved stakeholders so comparisons could be more easily facilitated among the subgroups. All voluntary respondents were guaranteed complete anonymity. The sample surveyed were stakeholders: Active teachers, staff, parents,

and students from this district. All data is wholly owned by TUSD Board and data will not be utilized in any formal research study for publication.

## Analysis

Inquiry responses and quotations were directly entered into QDA Miner 5.0, a mixed-model qualitative data analysis software for coding, annotating, analyzing, and graphing respondent information. Then, responses were analyzed via WordStat 7.1.15 tool to extract themes and patterns of word trends to quantitatively enumerate the information. Overall, there were 1564 words respondents offered and are represented in a variety of ways (see Appendices A: Raw Data). The frequency of similar words reveals an initial indication of how stakeholders felt: 21 schools, 15 school, 4 district, 13 need, 12 teachers, 11 students, 11 needs, 9 TUSD, 8 kids, 7 support, 6 people, visit, focus, supt., 5 facilities, community, special, teacher, middle, based, need, 4 employees, resources, education, budget, board, focus, first, going, work, keep, get, 3 Understand(s), different, childhood, teachers, student, growth, office, enough, listen, money, early, fight, urban, like, take, good, much, long, year, high, know, pay, day, and job while the remaining words only appeared once or twice.

## **Findings and Conclusions**

The quantitative analysis of the qualitative inquiry could assist board members and educational leaders to develop a better understanding regarding the result from stakeholders. The multiple means of representations enhance clarity and understanding, ultimately improving conceptualization of the constituents surveyed. Resulting themes and patterns have more clearly materialized. This highlights the main collective notions about the meanings of the language in context. Even though this inquiry is not exhaustive (a non-debilitating limitation), it does emphasize important facets about stakeholders perceive about the desired skills, knowledge, and attitudes the new superintendent should possess.

The QDA results of the clusters of seven themes were very distinct and clear, as shown in Table 1. Notice the importance of the new superintendent to stay for a while in the longevity theme. Some expressed a need for one to two years and others said three or long enough to fulfill the mission. The second theme indicated a strong cry for capital improvement of facilities across the board. Stakeholders expressed the importance of trusting, hearing, and supporting employees as well as a directive to put students first and to visit classrooms and schools often and ask what they need. They insisted about the importance of the middle schools and athletic facilities. Lastly, stakeholders made it indistinct that the new superintendent must have a strong experiences in teaching, teaching, leading, and problem solving in a large urban district.

Table 1: Similarity	7 Clustered Themes via QDA

1.63	LONGEVITY-stay LONG enough to fulfill mission
1.47	LONGEVITY
2.38	Last LONGER than 1 or 2 years-LONGEVITY-needs more than one year just to get going and clean up district
1.35	LONGEVITY-need a Supt who doesn't leave after 3 years
1.24	Get serious about coming into the 21st Century with FACILITIES
1.35	Improve our FACILITIES
1.38	Better up keep of FACILITIES
1.36	FACILITIES need to be addressed
1.34	All FACILITIES need upgrade
<u>1.22</u>	Address FACILITIES-dirty, grimy, bathrooms disgusting-lack soap
1.42	For EMPLOYEES and kids
1.41	Fight for EMPLOYEES
1.38	Trust EMPLOYEES
1.32	Able and willing to communicate with EMPLOYEES
1.23	Accountable-EMPLOYEES need to be treated like customers
1.23	Keep discount for EMPLOYEE day care
<u>1.26</u>	Listen to EMPLOYEE voice
1.18	Children FIRST
2.52	STUDENTS FIRST

2.52	STUDENTS FIRST
2.52	Put STUDENTS FIRST
1.23	different group of STUDENTS
1.27	Discipline balance-when STUDENTS cause issues-STUDENTS should be removed to benefit other STUDENTS
1.27	Invest in STUDENTS
<u>1.16</u>	STUDENT centered
2.26	VISIT SCHOOLS-spend day at SCHOOLS-seek engagement
2.34	VISIT SCHOOLS often
2.48	VISIT SCHOOLS
2.48	VISIT SCHOOLS
2.46	VISIT and ask SCHOOLS what they need
2.22	VISIBILITY need connection with SCHOOLS
2.17	Be VISIBLE-make appearances at SCHOOLS
2.13	VISIBILITY-admin rarely come to our SCHOOL
1.18	Supt needs to be in SCHOOLS
<u>1.18</u>	VISIT classrooms
3.31	More support for MIDDLE SCHOOLS-run on high SCHOOL system with an elementary budget
1.27	How can we run an athletic program at high SCHOOL with a \$5000 budget?
2.39	No MIDDLE SCHOOL gyms-few MIDDLE SCHOOL athletics
2.39	Athletics are huge-we need facilities and programs at the MIDDLE SCHOOLno gyms at MIDDLE SCHOOL
1.18	Support special needs SCHOOL-treat no different than any other SCHOOL
0.30	Strong EXPERIENCE in problem solving
0.45	PK-12 EXPERIENCE
0.36	EXPERIENCED teacher
0.49	EXPERIENCE with large urban district
0.46	EXPERIENCE leading large urban district

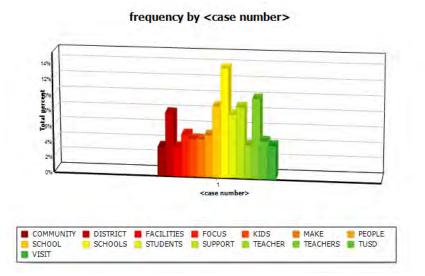
Further QDA analysis from only six themes yielded a call for emphasis from the new superintendent to focus on early childhood education, special education, and adult and technical education (Table 2).

See Table 2.

2.12	Get serious about coming into the 21st Century with FACILITIES			
1.19	Address FACILITIES-dirty, grimy, bathrooms disgusting-lack soap			
1.17	Athletics are huge-we need FACILITIES and programs at the middle schoolno gyms at middle school			
1.32	Improve our FACILITIES			
1.35	Better up keep of FACILITIES			
1.34	FACILITIES need to be addressed			
1.32	All FACILITIES need upgrade			
2.29	Focus on EARLY CHILDHOOD			
3.45	Support EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION			
3.39	Supports and provides resources for EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION			
1.19	Advocate for special EDUCATION			
1.19	Fight for public EDUCATION			
1.17	Focus on career and technical EDUCATION-gotten away from trades			
1.43	For EMPLOYEES and kids			
1.42	Fight for EMPLOYEES			
1.39	Trust EMPLOYEES			
1.33	Able and willing to communicate with EMPLOYEES			
1.21	Hold depts. Accountable-EMPLOYEES need to be treated like customers			
1.21	Keep discount for EMPLOYEE day care			
1.34	LISTEN to employee voice			
1.50	LISTEN			
1.50	LISTEN			
1.26	People person-LISTEN to voices of people			
1.17	LISTENS with action-make it happen			
1.22	Good LISTENER			
1.18	Children FIRST			
2.52	STUDENTS FIRST			
2.52	STUDENTS FIRST			
2.52	Put STUDENTS FIRST			
1.27	Invest in STUDENTS			
1.22	different group of STUDENTS			

1.16	STUDENT centered
1.27	Discipline balance-when STUDENTS cause issues-STUDENTS should be removed to benefit other STUDENTS
0.25	VISIT SCHOOLS-spend day at SCHOOLS-seek engagement
0.35	VISIT SCHOOLS often
0.49	VISIT SCHOOLS
0.49	VISIT SCHOOLS
0.46	VISIT and ask SCHOOLS what they need
0.13	1010 staff should VISIT and help out during registration
0.15	Speak to people when VISIT campuses
0.20	VISIT classrooms
0.17	VISIBILITY need connection with SCHOOLS
0.16	Supt needs to be in SCHOOLS

Unlike QDA, initial results from WordStat analysis was slightly varied as this program began with searching mainly for word frequencies rather than themes. Initial analysis resulted in the vast majority of responses (24%) were about school or schools, followed by (14%) said teachers or teacher, and (9%) called for support.

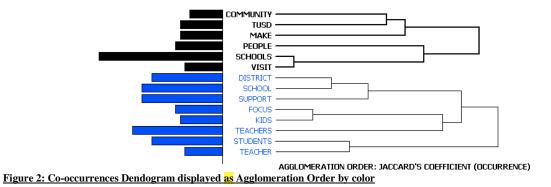


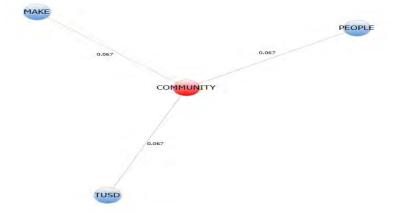
#### WordStat Frequencies

	EDEOUE	
THEME	FREQUE	NCY % SHOWN
SCHOOLS	26	13.98%
SCHOOL	17	9.14%
TEACHERS	19	10.22%
TEACHER	8	4.30%
SUPPORT	17	9.14%
DISTRICT	15	8.06%
STUDENTS	15	8.06%
FOCUS	10	5.38%
PEOPLE	10	5.38%
KIDS	9	4.84%
MAKE	9	4.84%
TUSD	9	4.84%
VISIT	8	4.30%
COMMUNITY	7	3.76%
FACILITIES	7	3.76%

Figure 1: WordStat Frequencies

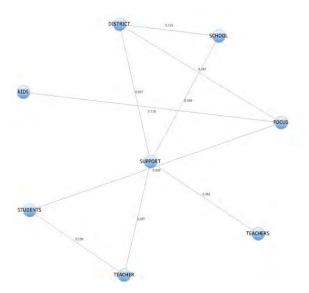
Final WordStat analysis yielded linkages via co-occurrences in a variety of forms including Dendogram (Figure 2) with schools and teachers being the two chief umbrella linkages that incorporate the other themes,





Agglomerations Orders by color (Figure 3) which center around community and support,

Figure 3: Co-occurrences Dendogram displayed by Agglomeration Order by black via Link Analysis





or co-occurrence Mapping (Figure 5) where schools, teachers, and support are prime.

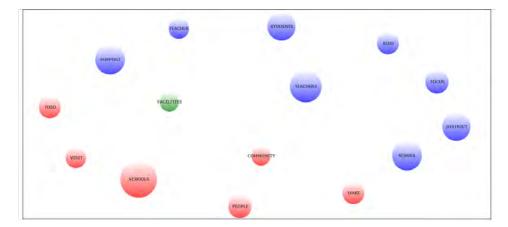


Figure 5: Co-occurrences Mapping AGGLOMERATIONS

## **Summary Recommendations**

This analysis identified strongest themes and patterns which emerged from the data regarding the desired skills, knowledge, and attitudes which the new superintendent should possess. The findings of this analysis has some limitations. However, based upon the data from stakeholder perceptions, majority signposted that schools, teachers, and support are to be of prime overall importance; the foci must revolve around community and support; early emphasis on early childhood education, special education, and adult and technical education; and they stressed several themes including: Superintendent longevity, capital improvements (particularly middle schools and athletic facilities), trusting and supporting employees, always placing students first, and frequently visiting classrooms and schools. Finally, stakeholders consistently indicated the new superintendent must have strong experiences in a large urban district in teaching, leading, and problem solving. We wish TUSD the very best in its efforts to move efficaciously with their superintendent selection process and sincerely hope the findings of this analysis is useful in supplementing the board's informed decisions.

#### Appendix A (Raw Data)

## **TUSD Stakeholder Input**

#### Superintendent Profile

- 1. Knows district history-lived it
- 2. Understands desegregation order
- 3. Personable and approachable
- 4. Listens with action-make it happen
- 5. Understands that each campus has unique DNA-find right leader for each campus
- Hold depts. Accountable-employees need to be treated like customers 6.
- 7. Value stakeholders-follow site based policy
- 8. Teachers work butts off-1010 needs to do same
- Professionalism-do job required-too much favoritism --not enough professionalism 9
- 10. Clean house-get rid of good old boys club
- We have huge exodus of teachers/staff- result of lack of trust-build community by trust 11.
- 12. Provide growth opportunities for teachers-unless you know someone
- 13. Culture builder
- 14. Someone local who speaks on our needs. Longevity-need a Supt who doesn't leave after 3 years
- 15. People skills-talk to me not at me
- 16. Loyalty-make environment good for learning-too many special interest groups
- 17. Buildings are suffering
- 18. Pay attention to school buildings
- 19. Focus on career and technical education-gotten away from trades
- 20. We need office support-not enough resources for language training-not updating training
- 21. System support-seems to be a disconnect between schools and 1010
- 22. More staff-teachers required to do work that used to be done by office staff
- 23. Lost chance to apply for grants-more communication-don't fight with me when I apply for grants-not getting help
- 24. Communicate with every one-clear expectations-ask our input
- 25. Athletics are huge-we need facilities and programs at the middle school...no gyms at middle school
- 26. Lack of Middle school sports-glaring-lots of kids can't afford little league and they miss out
- 27. All facilities need upgrade
- 28. Communication with 1010-make things priority at school level
- 29. More support for kids with disabilities in gen ed classes
- 30. Wheel chair accessible playground equipment-example swings
- 31. More focus on rigorous academic core standards and keeping students accountable
- 32. Set bar high
- 33. Consistent application of attendance policy in all schools
- 34. More collaboration/cooperation with tribes served by the district
- 35. Continue Steps to Success
- 36. Flexibility allowing individual schools to develop and maintain culture
- Collaborative-commitment to seeking out stakeholder voices
  Get serious about coming into the 1<sup>st</sup> Century with facilities
- 39. How can we run an athletic program at high school with a \$5000 budget?
- 40. No middle school gyms-few middle school athletics
- 41. High school credit for students who serve as aides for the severe and profound classes.
- 42. Restore cuts to operations at schools
- 43. Better up keep of facilities
- 44. Address equity across the district in all areas
- 45. Supt who is aware of district diversity and culture and willing to support
- 46. Highly competent but down to earth
- 47. Supt needs to be in schools
- 48. Be part of the community
- 49. Put students first
- 50. Strongly support teachers-don't sit on the money
- 51. Teachers need pay raise-difficult job-underpaid
- 52. Integrity
- 53. Someone who will support teachers and clarify information from onset
- 54. Willing to make hard choices but give reasons
- 55. Transparent
- 56. Prevent another 301 disaster
- 57. Smart in spending budget-get more feedback from teachers
- 58. Be visible-make appearances at schools
- 59. Discipline balance-when students cause issues-students should be removed to benefit other students

- 60. Need consequences for discipline
- 61. Think out of the box-allow schools to be different
- 62. Children first
- 63. Support System thinking/project based learning
- 64. Respond versus react
- 65. Sense of humor
- 66. Accessible-easy to reach and responds in a timely manner
- 67. Supports and provides resources for early childhood education
- 68. Able and willing to communicate with employees
- 69. Kind, polite and asks questions about schools
- 70. Visit and ask schools what they need
- 71. Approachable-aware, smiles, polite outgoing in professional way
- 72. Change one size fits all PD approach for principals-need to differentiate
- 73. Personalize PD
- 74. HR, Finance and Purchasing-nightmare-too many desks that requests sit on
- 75. Focus on early childhood
- 76. Need to give teachers tools to implement restorative discipline-if we are going to do it, we need to do it well
- 77. Consensus-community builder-translation-make a commitment to bring people together
- 78. Transform our reputation-some which is earned and some which is not earned
- 79. Commitment to the job for the long term-don't use as a stepping stone
- 80. Need focus on quality schools
- 81. Sharpen messaging conveyed to public
- 82. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher eval unfair. Need equitable assessment. Compare same group of students for growth points versus compare two different group of students
- 83. Move back to old method of teacher evaluation which valued principal
- 84. Balance between running district like a business and an educational service provider
- 85. Change ELL assessment protocols-students being evaluated as proficient and they are not
- 86. Classroom is pressure cooker due to all the assessments. We are building tests as airplane is flying.
- 87. Cultural competency-push for all kids and families to feel welcomed
- 88. Visit schools often
- 89. Commitment to long term-worried about district track record.
- 90. Make TUSD crown jewel
- 91. Board politics often grinds district to halt-work with board to build consensus and support
- 92. Supt and Board relations need dramatic improvement
- 93. Experience leading large urban district
- 94. Understands multi-cultural urban school district dynamics
- 95. Support early childhood education
- 96. Consistency with curriculum roll out
- 97. More autonomy for principals
- 98. Care about teachers
- 99. Influence community to pass the bond
- 100. Reduce clashes with Board—too much conflict and too much politics—needs to be more focused on teachers and students
- 101. Longevity
- 102. Budget skills-allocate resources based on equity and student need
- 103. Don't change curriculum mid-year
- 104. More focus on AzMerit test and preparation-my students were not prepared to take the test on the computer
- 105. Each elementary a small community-respect individuality of each school
- 106. Consistency in following 504 plans
- 107. Trust employees
- 108. Let people ask questions with no repercussions
- 109. Listen
- 110. Visit classrooms
- 111. Support Peach Path
- 112. Respond when I email and invite Supt to my classroom
- 113. Teacher evaluation-not fair 3<sup>rd</sup> grade growth points
- 114. Keep track and on top of everything
- 115. Easy to get a hold of
- 116. Communication
- 117. Honor the strategic plan-consistency and uniformity
- 118. More support for middle schools-run on high school system with an elementary budget
- 119. Students first
- 120. Better technology, better food, less testing
- 121. Full time student success specialists
- 122. Visit schools-spend day at schools-seek engagement
- 123. Address facilities-dirty, grimy, bathrooms disgusting-lack soap
- 124. 1010 staff should visit and help out during registration

- 125. Support community based schools
- 126. Visit schools
- 127. Allocate funds to schools in an equitable fashion- millions to Townsend—we can't even get paint and windows fixed
- 128. Beautiful historic building—needs to be preserved on a historic level—show respect
- 129. Needs skills and knowledge in budget and finance
- 130. Employee benefits-can't afford insurance-have visited food back on numerous occasions this year
- 131. Supt who is interested in us-cares and wants information-get to know us-
- 132. Fight for higher wages
- 133. Teachers spend lots of money on our rooms and PBIS incentives come out of our own pocket
- 134. Follow through –advocate for kids and teachers
- 135. Listen to employee voice
- 136. Respect teachers
- 137. Keep good teachers
- 138. Soap in restrooms
- 139. Improve our facilities
- 140. Respect teachers and staff-continue to find ways to provide pay raises
- 141. Emphasize academic standards and rigor and support what that looks like
- 142. No excuses
- 143. Longevity-stay long enough to fulfill mission
- 144. Invested in community and TUSD
- 145. Aware of the challenges
- 146. Visit schools
- 147. Support teacher discipline
- 148. Bring Peace to the Board
- 149. Develop/support common vocabulary-expectations and protocols
- 150. Know who I am and acknowledge me
- 151. Be accessible without going through hoops
- 152. Personal touch
- 153. Embarrassing what TA get paid
- 154. Focus on positive
- 155. Strong experience in problem solving
- 156. Needs to know what is going on in TUSD
- 157. Here for kids and spend money that way
- 158. Need 1<sup>st</sup> Century skills-kids can't keyboard and made it difficult to take AzMerit
- 159. Allocate resources to meet needs
- 160. Figure out how to work with Board
- 161. Establish pipeline of communication with stakeholders
- 162. Don't hire to be fire
- 163. Teflon skin
- 164. Good vision-transform stereo type of TUSD
- 165. Facilities need to be addressed
- 166. Proven transformer
- 167. Able to knock out bureaucracy
- 168. Creative, flexible, compassionate
- 169. Support special needs school-treat no different than any other school
- 170. Students first
- 171. Understand diversity we have in TUSD schools
- 172. Support teacher with decent salaries and salary increases
- 173. Fight for public education
- 174. Promote professional teaching-treat with respect
- 175. Teacher voice needs to be heard
- 176. Focus on teachers who make district run
- 177. Losing teachers faster than we can attract teachers
- 178. Teacher/staff pay should be based on need and risk-incentives to work with students with special needs
- 179. Keep discount for employee day care
- 180. Understand special needs population
- 181. Compassionate
- 182. Visibility-admin rarely come to our school
- 183. When I attended schools in TUSD in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade-schools were clean, grass cut, now filthy
- 184. Bathrooms in schools smell, no soap-I turn around and walk out
- 185. Focus on school appearance-take pride in the district-this is a huge problem
- 186. Not afraid to take risks
- 187. Stick around more than a year
- 188. Favoritism and politics need to go
- 189. Hands on
- 190. Move district forward and consider people's needs

- 191. Safety at schools-better fencing, cameras at entrances, buzzers
- 192. Focus on kids
- 193. Working on behalf of everyone-demanding job
- 194. People person-listen to voices of people
- 195. Fight for employees
- 196. Last longer than 1 or years-longevity-needs more than one year just to get going and clean up district
- 197. Step forward-all in
- 198. Value people with salary and benefits
- 199. Active and creative
- 200. Make every day better than the next
- 201. Keep focus on kids
- 202. Update technology
- 203. Invest in students
- 204. Integrity
- 205. Familiar with TUSD and lay of the land
- 206. Balance the budget focused on student needs
- 207. Personally invest in TUSD
- 208. Innovative -young thinker
- 209. For employees and kids
- 210. Personable-people person
- 211. Connect with state-Lobby
- 212. Speak to people when visit campuses
- 213. Cheerleader
- 214. Celebrate successes
- 215. Listen
- 216. 1010 people in schools (central office)
- 217. Visibility -need connection with schools
- 218. Advocate for special education
- 219. Background in diverse communities
- 220. Understand mental illness and behavioral health issues
- 221. Common philosophy and align school goals with district goals
- 222. Collaborative
- 223. Hands on
- 224. Open minded to our needs
- 225. Student centered
- 226. Stability -change parent perception by moving forward
- 227. Good listener
- 228. Knowledge in pedagogy
- 229. Experienced teacher
- 230. Culturally responsive
- 231. Open minded
- 232. Gets along with diverse groups
- 233. Approachable/connects with schools
- 234. Experience with large urban district
- 235. PK-1 experience