

Columbus City Schools
Superintendent Search: Candidate Presentation
September 2018

Candidate – Dr. Talisa Dixon

- Dr. Talisa Dixon is a widely recognized educational leader and innovator with 22 years of experience as an administrator who couples numerous academic credentials with extensive real-world educational expertise. She is currently beginning her 5th year as the Superintendent of Schools in Cleveland Heights-University Heights in Cleveland, Ohio a district with approximately 5,500 students. She has also served as the Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in Saginaw, Michigan, was a principal in Akron, Ohio and served for 9 years as a principal in Columbus City Schools with a district student population of 56,000.
- Dr. Dixon received a BA in Sociology from Mississippi State University, 3 Masters of Arts from the University of Akron in Secondary Education, Educational Administration and Sociology. She received her Doctorate in Educational Administration in 2003 from the University of Akron. She holds an active administrative certificate for the state of Ohio. Her current salary is \$165,000 and she would be interested in a multiyear contract.
- Dr. Dixon describes herself as a good listener and collaborative worker who doesn't take no for an answer, but rather problem solves to make it happen. Her work with 3 communities to create a racial equity training institute continues to be applauded. Her equity work also extends to her active participation in the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) which is a national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate opportunity/achievement gaps that persist in their schools. She has had experience in facility renovations, successful levy approvals, and positive and supportive Board-Superintendent relations. Her accolades include: The University of Akron Outstanding Women in Higher Education Award, The Ohio Transformation Champion of Change Award and the Ingram Award for Excellence in Leadership. She feels she is visible and vocal on behalf of children through balancing her work in professional and community organizations.
- Dr. Dixon enjoys being active in her sorority, gathering with friends, the theatre and traveling.
- Supervisors, colleagues, and community members who know her and have worked with her describe her as: one who is receptive to new thoughts; one who listens to staff, the community and Board members; one who is willing to try to integrate information; a thoughtful person; a bundle of energy; someone who is willing to stand her ground; a true listener; a hard worker; one who remains humble; she works smart; is inclusive; an educator who tries to improve others; a lover of children from all walks of life; great communicator with an innate ability to interact with diverse groups of people; she can rally the troops around a vision; a master at strategic planning; having political savvy in a complex district; possessing high ideals and values; a fine and good person; extremely honest and trustworthy; and an impressive speaker who connects with the audience.
- Areas for attention might include more of a balance between work and fun and recognition that some individuals will not be supportive and it shouldn't be taken personally.
- Dr. Dixon is seen as a progressive educator who knows how to get things done to support the needs of all students as witnessed through the district's equity policy that serves as a model for other systems and goes beyond rhetoric to identifiable action and results.