

May 18, 2017

Dear Parents, Faculty, Students, Alumni and Staff,

On behalf of the Walnut Hills High School Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC), I want to update the Walnut Hills community on the search for a new building principal. As you know, Jeff Brokamp is retiring on June 30th of this year and a search for a new principal is underway. This week, there have been some inaccurate media reports about our search and I would like to set the record straight.

The search began in December with the formation of a subcommittee of the LSDMC called the Principal Search Committee (PSC). The PSC is made up of 23 members of the Walnut Hills community nominated by and representative of a cross section of all stakeholders in the school. To assist with the search process, the PSC interviewed several national search firms that specialize in school administrators.

In cooperation with the Cincinnati Public School District, the LSDMC engaged School Exec Connect to lead a search for candidates. Craig Larson and Kevin O'Mara, both retired superintendents and high school principals, are the representatives from School Exec Connect with whom we are working. Drs. Larson and O'Mara are also long standing members of national organizations of high school leaders.

Before the actual search began, the PSC, with help from our facilitators:

- Updated the job description for Walnut Hills' principal.
- Surveyed the Walnut Hills community and received 2,623 responses about the needs of Walnut Hills and the skills sought in a new principal.
- Created a school needs assessment document, or New Principal Profile, that matches the views of current stakeholders with the school's deep classical education roots and its ambitious long-range plan.
- Created interview rubrics that were used in evaluating principal candidates against Walnut Hills' needs.
- Invited stakeholders from throughout the school community to interview our three final candidates.

After reviewing 56 total applicants, seven candidates were recommended by School Exec Connect for further consideration by the PSC. In April, six candidates were interviewed in person by the PSC. Of these, three finalists were recommended by the PSC to the LSDMC. Between May 4 and May 10, the LSDMC and panels of stakeholders interviewed each of the three finalists in day long sessions at Walnut Hills. After careful deliberation at our meeting on May 11, the LSDMC recommended Brian Frank as the new building principal of Walnut Hills High School to the Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools. However, after nearly a week of contract negotiations, Brian withdrew his candidacy for principal on Tuesday.

This is an unfortunate event in what has been a very long and diligent process, but our job is not yet done. The LSDMC is meeting next week to consider next steps. I ask for your patience as we continue on with the search process. Walnut Hills is blessed with a talented team of staff and administrators, and a faculty that is second to none. Our goal is to find a suitable successor to Jeff to lead the next great chapter in the history of Walnut Hills High School — we will continue our search until we have secured the right individual.

As Chair of the LSDMC, I will provide the school community an update on the search process and our next steps after the LSDMC meeting next week.

Sincerely,

Stephen Baker '82
LSDMC Chairman