

TO: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Members
FROM: Tessa McKinley
RE: Summary of Community Feedback regarding the Superintendent Finalists
DATE: March 12, 2018

Anthony Parker was appreciated by many in our community. His thoughtfulness, listening skills and his passion for making decisions based on student need were the attributes mentioned most frequently. Many felt he would be an asset to teachers because of his experience in the classroom. He recognizes the importance of relational trust in decision-making. His approach to diversity was also mentioned as a strength because he sees the value in diversifying staff and increasing cultural competencies. He was very poised and deeply passionate about some of his initiatives like the June Academy. It was expressed that he seems to have strong building level skills but many wondered if this would be enough to take the next step as a district-level leader. It was felt that he has a lot of secondary experience and is comfortable speaking about innovations and decision-making at that level. Many wondered about his limited experience with the elementary and preschool level. Knowledge of characteristics of strong leadership was mentioned as a strength. People noted that he knows his own strengths and weaknesses and would be able to reach out to more experienced colleagues when he needs additional information. Amongst staff and leadership, there were a lot of questions about how his specific experience would translate into strong leadership in the central office and across a district as large and complex as ours. Overall, Anthony was viewed as a solid candidate with some questions about his ability to scale up. Approximately 80 feedback forms were returned for Mr. Parker.

Peter Light was noted to have many strengths by parents, students, staff and administrators. His thoughtfulness, energy, passion for students, and overall communication skills were mentioned again and again. Staff were particularly impressed with his focus on inclusion and equity and his experience with social emotional learning. Many people mentioned the correlation he drew between mental wellness and academic achievement. Teachers felt he would be supportive and that he valued collaboration and relationships. Many felt he would understand and initiate a healing process across the district. It was noted that he seemed to understand our district very well and had obviously done his homework. In particular, an appreciation of the individuality of our elementary schools was mentioned repeatedly. Although there were a few questions regarding his lack of experience outside of Franklin, it was noted by many that he would be their choice for superintendent. His experience with the MSBA, the MTSS process, and an understanding of the budget stood out as strengths. He impressed many with his passion for student-centered decision-making as well as his core value of trust. A vast majority of his feedback indicated that people feel he is an extremely qualified candidate and would be a great fit for our district. Approximately 90 feedback forms were returned for Mr. Light.

We recognize that there was feedback from the Senior Leadership Team and the Central Office expressing a desire to have serious consideration or recruitment of qualified internal candidates.