



## **School board, search firm seek community input on selection of CMSD's next CEO**

**JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

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The Cleveland Board of Education announced plans this week to engage the school community in the process of selecting the next superintendent/CEO to lead the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. As part of that process, Board President Anne Bingham sent a letter to families, friends and supporters of CMSD, inviting them to participate in community meetings, an online survey, focus groups and on-site interviews with Alma Advisory Group, the search team assisting with the search.

"The Board of Education values the community's input, as we begin a process that will be both robust and interactive," said Bingham, when announcing the dates for three community engagement events. "Your participation is crucial for gathering insights and feedback," she said.

Meetings are scheduled in three locations of the city, including East Professional Center on Tuesday, January 17, Max Hayes High School on Wednesday, January 18 and John F Kennedy High School on Thursday, January 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM nightly. Refreshments, childcare, and interpreter services will be available as well as a remote option for those who pre-register.

An online survey, scheduled to open on January 12 will remain open through January 31, and will be posted in multiple languages. Additionally, focus groups and on-site interviews will take place from January 17-19. Residents will be able to engage directly with representatives of the search team and share their hopes and expectations for district leadership when CEO Eric S. Gordon passes the leadership baton at the end of the school year.

Under Gordon's leadership over the last 12 years, CMSD saw a 71.6% increase in enrollment in high-quality preschools across the district, and the District closed the achievement gap for African-American and Hispanic students, with increased graduation rates that outpaced their peers statewide. On the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), CMSD was one of six districts in the nation identified as beating the odds with consistent improvement on at least two grade/subject combinations since 2009. Since 2011, when the state began releasing an annual report card, CMSD ranks fifth among Ohio's fastest-improving districts and remains in the top 1% for graduation-rate growth.

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“Choosing a leader to build on CEO Gordon’s legacy is a tremendous responsibility and one we do not take lightly,” Mayor Bibb said when announcing the national search for the CEO’s replacement. “We are fully committed to engaging the community in this important work.”

Citizens can stay abreast of the CEO search efforts at [clevelandmetroschools.org/CEOsearch](http://clevelandmetroschools.org/CEOsearch) where citizens can submit questions and suggestions as well.

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