

EDUCATION

Macaluso receives outpouring of support

Colleagues offer well wishes at open house

BY JON POMPIA

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The first of two open houses afforded the community an opportunity to visit with Charlotte Macaluso, the interim superintendent of Pueblo City Schools (D60) recently designated sole finalist for the superintendent's position.

That announcement, which came at a Jan. 26 special board meeting, initiated a 14-day waiting period, during which the public is able to offer input and comment on the board's action.

The meet-and-greet Friday at the Administrative Services Center did not allow for the presentation of questions or comments in a formal manner. Rather, it was a casual gathering during which Macaluso met with and accepted well wishes from visitors — mainly D60 administrators and educators, current and past board members and those who have worked alongside her through the years.

With the consensus being, from those who know her best, that Macaluso is the right choice to lead D60 into the future.

"I've worked with a lot of different leaders, and she was the best principal I've seen," said Matt Kouba, an assistant principal at Risley International Academy of Innovation, a

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school Macaluso attended and eventually led as principal.

“She’s professional all the time, in school and out of school,” said Kouba. “She treats people with respect but she has really high expectations for staff and students. She’s dedicated her life to this district, and nobody knows it better than her.”

Geri Lane, an educator who worked under Macaluso at the now-shuttered Spann Elementary as well as Risley, called Macaluso “wise beyond her years. She has more empathy and knowledge than anyone I’ve met in education. And I would follow her lead anywhere.”

In announcing the decision to name Macaluso the sole finalist, board President Phyllis Sanchez said an outside search was not deemed necessary “as we feel strongly that we already have the very best candidate for the position.”

Staying within the district, board member Barb Clementi believes, has a wealth of benefits.

“When we bring somebody in from outside, it takes them awhile to learn how Pueblo functions,” Clementi explained. “We have very strong roots, very strong traditions and very strong ideas about how things should be done.”

“Charlotte already knows how we function, knows all of those traditions, the important things our Pueblo community pays attention to.

“My personal sense of Charlotte has always been one of a very strong leader at any level. So to me, this is the perfect move for the district.”

One of the few noneducators at the reception was Floyd Jaramillo, a tireless advocate for the East Side.

“I’m here as a private



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/ CHRIS MCLEAN

Charlotte Macaluso (center), Pueblo City Schools superintendent candidate, talks with Jody Lane (left) and Geri Lane during an open house Friday evening.

citizen,” Jaramillo said, “to say that I’m very pleased with her selection. I feel she’s going to change the curriculum in a very positive way and get more kids involved in the studies so they can improve.”

The candidate herself seemed to be humbled by the outpouring of support.

“It’s a great honor for me to serve in this capacity,” Macaluso said. “I think the opportunities are endless for our district, especially if our whole community can come together.”

“We know we have challenges, but I feel these can

be solved if we all work together.”

The district’s second open house will be from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Administrative Services Center, 315 W. 11th St.

Additionally, those who wish to submit comments to the board or to Macaluso may do so through the district’s website.

Once the 14-day waiting period concludes, the board of education is expected to formally announce Macaluso as superintendent during a special meeting.

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