

Good Afternoon. I am Maria Coulson, President of the Academic Senate.

I am here today, making a public comment, because I have been approached and asked if the Academic Senate or I as its President, was going to endorse a candidate for superintendent/president at the College of Marin.

The answer is no.

I thank the Board for appointing me to the Screening Committee that I co-chaired with Joan Smith. I poured through all the applications and supporting material and worked with my colleagues and community members to determine a group to interview. We interviewed the candidates. We forwarded the finalists. I attended the Kentfield forums and had lunch with each candidate and other College Council members.

No other faculty or staff member had as much contact with the candidates as I did.

Will I volunteer my choice? The answer is still no.

Given my visible part in this process, people came out of the woodwork to share with me their thoughts and opinions on the candidates. Faculty, staff, and even members of the administrative team, pulled me aside to give me their top choice, or in some cases give me their last choice.

The only official and inclusive feedback vehicle was the survey Executive Director Harris sent to the community. And, I imagine and hope you as the hiring manager, are giving that feedback serious consideration.

Let me be clear. There was no opportunity for any additional feedback. Not one faculty body, not the senate nor the union, nor any other group collected feedback from the faculty. You have our feedback.

Given my role in this and the voluminous feedback I received, one might think it would be easy and even justified, that I now tell you who I believe is the preferred candidate. Will I? Still no.

No matter what my casual data collection, knowledge, and experience says, I cannot in good conscience elevate my or the Senate's voice above anyone else's. It would be highly inappropriate for me, and frankly, anyone else, to engage in the activity of providing unsanctioned, unrequested, and superfluous feedback. You have my feedback; you have everyone's feedback; it's in the survey results.

The Academic Senate stands ready to work alongside your choice for the new Superintendent/President.

Thank you for your time.