

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ACCEPTING A TEACHING POSITION

OFFICE OF CAREER EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

OVERALL DISTRICT REPUTATION AND QUALITY

- Research the district; talk with parents, students, teachers, secretaries. Look at the district Report Card.
- How many of the last referenda have passed?
- What is the composition of the School Board?
- How well does the Board work with the teachers? With the administrators?

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

- Is there flexibility? Will you have leeway in the way you teach?
- Is there room for creative differences?
- Can you work with the building administrators?

SALARY AND BENEFITS

- Is the package you are being offered competitive with others in the area? What makes it a good package? What are its drawbacks?
- What was the percentage of salary increase last year?
- What are the steps in the salary schedule?
- Does the district offer funding for professional development and continued education?

LOCATION

- Is the school within a commuting distance for you?
- Will you have a difficult time arriving at work in adverse weather?
- What is the composition of the community? Learn as much as you can about the community before interviewing.
- What advantages does the community provide?
- What kinds of families have school-aged children? Where do most of the teachers live?

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT/INTEREST IN THE SCHOOLS

- What percentage of the parents attended the last open house?
- Do parents resist of support educational innovations and reform?
- How much parental support is there for the teachers?

TEACHING STAFF

- What is the average age of the faculty? What is the average educational level?
- What is the average number of years that teachers have been with the district?
- How many internal promotions have there been?

BUDGET

- Will you have to furnish many of your own supplies, or will the district support reasonable requests?
- How much input will you have in determining what materials will be ordered?

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- How much voice do teachers have in curriculum planning?
- Is the district technologically competitive?
- Are programs current?
- Is the curriculum one with which you are familiar?

PROBLEMS

- What are the major educational and social problems facing the district?
- What sorts of actions are being taken to resolve the problems?
- What long-range planning is in place to address issues of concern?

INNOVATIONS

- How up-to-date is the school?
- What is the physical appearance/condition of the facility?
- What are standardized test scores? What sort of testing is done?
- How does the school rate in comparison to others in the state?