

Print Email BOOKMARK



'Aggressive' schedule to find new superintendent for Dover schools

By LESLIE MODICA
Friday, March 19, 2010

DOVER — The School District has embarked on what a consultant called an "aggressive" schedule to find its next superintendent in less than two months.

A representative from the New Hampshire School Boards Association and consultant presented a recommended schedule to the School Board Thursday with an ultimate goal of announcing the pick for the new superintendent by May 14.

"It's aggressive, but it's doable," said Paul DeMinico, the superintendent of schools in Gilford who also works as a consultant for superintendent searches in other communities.

To help with the search, the School Board has opted to hire the New Hampshire School Boards Association to advise on each step and coordinate and oversee the more time consuming tasks, such as conducting thorough background checks of all the candidates.

Many school boards, including the Portsmouth School Board, regularly retain the organization to assist in a superintendent search. However unlike Portsmouth, which opted last year for "full facilitation" at a cost of about \$12,000 with consulting fees, the Dover School Board decided Thursday to only use the organization for selected tasks, at a rate of \$100 per hour.

Those tasks include the already completed step of advertising for the superintendent position and using the organization's network of school administrators and knowledge of candidates to coordinate background checks and coordinate the semifinalist screening process.

That screening process will include checking references both provided by candidates and references not provided by candidates, such as teachers, students and city employees in the candidates' current or previous school districts.

The School Board also decided to use the organization to coordinate and review comments from various stakeholders — school staff, parents, community members, administrators, city officials — about what they want in a new superintendent.

The board had originally planned to coordinate those meetings themselves, or hire retirees from the school district to do so at a cheaper rate; however, disagreements about who should hold those meetings and whose comments should be included prompted board members to opt to pay the hourly rate for the organization to complete the task.

A search committee including a School Board member and representatives from the community and school staff was also discussed as playing a role in the process to select and recommend at least three finalists from a pool of around a half-dozen semifinalists for the position.

While the board did not vote on forming a committee, the board discussed having the entire School Board select the semifinalists, then the search committee recommend finalists, with a final decision on a candidate being made by the School Board.

According to the schedule presented during Thursday's meeting, the School District will accept applications until April 10 and select semifinalist candidates by April 21.

Semifinalist interviews are expected to be conducted during the week of April 26 and the finalists will be publicly announced that same week.

Once the selection becomes public, representatives from the selection committee will likely conduct visits to the candidates' current districts during the first week of May and candidates will also formally meet the Dover community during public "meet-and-greet" sessions that same week.

Finalist interviews are scheduled for between May 10 and May 14 and the announcement of the new superintendent is planned for May 14, with an official start date of July 1.

Current Superintendent John O'Connor, who is retiring after 20 years with the School District, will begin his new post as superintendent of Tewksbury, Mass. schools on July 1.

Reader Services

Today's Featured Jobs

Notable Passings

Raymond Burton
Lou Reed
Marcia Wallace
[View All Local Obituaries](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

RESTAURANT COUPONS

Print Your Free Coupon
& Enjoy A Meal Out For Less!

DINING	DEALS	MORE

[Get Coupons](#)

Print Email BOOKMARK

Share icons

Panelists sought for Dover school superintendent search

By LESLIE MODICA
Tuesday, March 30, 2010

DOVER — School Board members are seeking candidates to serve on a search committee that will determine who will lead the School District after Superintendent John O'Connor retires this summer.

The board decided Monday to form a 13-member committee that will examine a pared down list of applicants for the superintendent position and recommend a selection of at least three finalists, from which the School Board will choose the next superintendent.

Numerous school administrators have already expressed interest in serving on the committee, however, School Board members emphasized Monday that they want the committee to represent a cross-section of the city and include a representation of staff, parents and other taxpayers who may not even have children in the school system.

An exact deadline to form the committee has not yet been decided, but the superintendent search is on a fast-paced deadline and board members said they hope to have the committee formed sometime in mid April.

The board is waiting, however, to form the committee until after a series of public forums are held to solicit input from city residents about the attributes they are seeking in a new superintendent.

Five of those forums are currently planned to be held before April 15 — when the School Board plans to select the semifinalist candidates to be reviewed by the search committee — and board members said Monday that they will ideally be held next week.

Exactly who will host those forums was still unofficial Monday night, but board members said they planned to ask the three elementary school parent teacher organizations to hold a forum in each of the elementary schools. In order to make the process less school-centric, the board also planned to ask a city official to host a forum in City Hall and an independent organization, such as the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, to host the fifth forum.

The School Board is hoping to hire a superintendent by May 14, using an aggressive schedule that sets numerous deadlines throughout April and May.

An advertisement for the position has already been posted, and the district is accepting applications until April 10.

Once the semifinalists are selected by the School Board by April 15, the search committee will interview those semifinalists and select a group of finalists by the week of April 26. That same week, the public announcement of finalists will be made.

During the first week of May, district representatives are planning to make on-site visits to the current job sites of the finalists and telephone reference checks will be administered.

The School Board is expected to interview the finalists again between May 10 and May 14 before announcing the new superintendent.

Anybody who would like to become a member of the search committee should either contact School Board members directly or contact the superintendent's office.

Related Articles and Media

Article: [Dover High School electrical students win scholarships in statewide event](#)

Reader Services

- Advertise
- Email Headlines
- Buy Photos
- Tool Bar
- Home Delivery

SERVICE CREDIT UNION

BLACK FRIDAY 29

SPECIALS AVAILABLE ALL DAY IN-BRANCH ONLY

Get \$100
\$25 to spend.
\$75 to save.

When you open a new checking account with direct deposit

► More special offers and deals

SERVICE CREDIT UNION
★★★★★

3 MONTHS OF FREE GROCERIES

\$2,000
Value based on USDA average

PULSE of AMERICA

Today's Featured Jobs

Notable Passings

Raymond Burton
Lou Reed
Marcia Wallace
[View All Local Obituaries](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

RESTAURANT COUPONS

Print Your Free Coupon & Enjoy A Meal Out For Less!

RED ROBIN
carby's
Panera BREAD

Get Coupons

Fosters.com Foster's Daily Democrat Rochester Times Sanford News

Check out your forecast

newsletter
 Today's Ads
 Jobs
 Homes
 Autos

NH Towns | ME Towns | News | Obits | Community | Op/Ed | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Lifestyle | Site Tools | Advertising

SITE SEARCH

GO CALENDAR *nh365* Network

Print Email BOOKMARK

3 forums planned on Dover school superintendent search

User Submitted News
Friday, April 2, 2010

DOVER — A public forum regarding the Dover Schools' search for a new superintendent will be held at Woodman Park School on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 pm.

Childcare will be provided by Dover High School National Honor Society students. Parents, community members, and interested parties should plan on meeting in the gym.

The purpose of the forum will be to gather input through discussion and confidential survey to aid the School Board in their search. The School Board has set a deadline for superintendent applications of April 10. They will use information gathered at this forum to assist in application review.

Volunteers interested in participating in the search for a new superintendent may also sign up during the forum. If you have any questions, contact Woodman Park School Principal Patrick Boodey, 516-6700 or p.boodey@dover.k12.nh.us.

Garrison School will be holding a public forum on Tuesday, April 6 at 6 pm in the cafe and Horne Street School will also be holding a public forum on Wednesday, April 7 at 7 pm in the gymnasium.

Reader Services

Advertise
 Email Headlines
 Buy Photos
 Tool Bar
 Home Delivery

Today's Featured Jobs

Best Read Guide

Vacation Recommendations:

Notable Passings

Raymond Burton
 Lou Reed
 Marcia Wallace
[View All Local Obituaries](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

Online Doctorate Degree

www.gcu.edu/doctoral
 Flexible Evening & Online Programs
 Available At GCU. Sign Up Today!

Keller MBA (Bus. Admin.)

Jobs For New Hampshire

Copyright © 2013 Geo. J. Foster Company. Site Design: Harbour Light Strategic Marketing. Internet Services: BayRing Communications.