

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

School Committee meeting, open session, 7PM @ Marblehead Middle School library

**Report to the School Committee from the Superintendent Screening Committee**

Submitted by Amy Drinker, screening committee chairman

Good evening. I'm here to report to the school committee about the superintendent search, and to announce the names of the semifinalists being submitted by the screening committee to the school committee for further consideration.

We're presently in the eleventh month of our superintendent search. I commend the school committee and the community for keeping its collective focus on the goal, namely hiring an experienced superintendent to lead our district in its ongoing pursuit of excellence in education.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our present superintendent, Philip Devaux Ed.D., for his strong leadership over the past twelve months. He's brought stability and confidence back to our district while tackling a challenging and critical "to do" list set before him, which included the hiring of our new high school principal, John Ziergiebel, the promotion of Libby Moore from interim to principal of the middle school, and the restructuring of our curriculum leadership team within our operating budget to include curriculum leaders for all disciplines. Dr. Devaux was also a significant presence at the bargaining table last spring when new contracts with the various school unions were negotiated. Thanks to his leadership, we find ourselves in a position of strength to move forward and we're fortunate that he'll remain at the helm until the end of this school year. Thank you Phil.

I'd also like to thank our search firm liaisons, Art Bettencourt, Ed.D., and Ken DeBenedictis, Ed.D., of the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). They continue to help lead us through the search process and they've provided me with sage council over the past eleven months.

Hiring a superintendent is arguably the school committee's most important responsibility besides its oversight of the district budget. Make no bones about it—the demand for experienced superintendents remains exceedingly high and continues to outpace the supply. This year in Massachusetts there will be upwards of forty districts conducting superintendent searches. For us, the process began during the last school year and has extended into this year as we seek to find a candidate who not only has experience and a proven track record, but is also the right "fit" for our community.

The screening committee has met twice this fall. The screening committee members are as follows: Jackie Belf-Becker, who serves as vice chair, school committee member Patricia Blackmer, who serves as secretary, EuRim Chun, Mary Devlin, Marianne Dunne, Kathy Leonardson, Steve Maxwell, Joan Miller, Libby Moore, Katherine Prouty, Tuck Rickards, Tony Sasso, Phyllis Smith, and Bill Shevory. I serve as chair of the committee. When the screening committee reconvened this fall, it drew upon the important perspectives and insights it gained last spring. As chair of the screening subcommittee for the superintendent search, I bring forward to you the two candidates selected by the screening committee for the school committee's further consideration. They are listed in alphabetical order:

G. Paul Dulac, Ed.D.

Donald Yeoman, Ed.D.

In closing, I would like to thank the screening committee members for their work and I congratulate them on a job well done.

Amy Drinker

Chairman of the screening committee for the superintendent search

Chairman of the Marblehead school committee