



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY 12234

Patricia N. Kilburn, Ed.D., District Superintendent of Schools
Sole Supervisory District of Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Counties
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January 20, 2023

Dear Sauquoit Valley School District Community,

As you may already be aware, Superintendent Ronald Wheelock has announced his intention to retire, and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District has initiated the process of hiring a new Superintendent of Schools. As the District Superintendent of the Sole Supervisory District of Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Counties and BOCES, I have been appointed by the Sauquoit Valley Central School District Board of Education (SVCSO BOE) as the search consultant, to facilitate this process on their behalf.

During the next few months I will work with the SVCSO BOE in recruiting, screening and evaluating candidates for the Superintendent position. While I am pleased to support the SVCSO BOE with this work, the final decision of selecting and appointing a new Superintendent of Schools rests with the Board of Education, as they hold the sole authority to appoint a Superintendent of Schools and enter into an employment contract with the successful candidate.

SEARCH TYPE

Transparency is paramount to the SVCSO BOE. After thoughtful deliberation, they have decided to conduct an open search, where candidate names are disclosed and stakeholders often have the opportunity to meet candidates prior to a Board appointment, typically once the Board has selected finalists. While resume evaluations and some candidate interviews will be conducted confidentially, open searches solicit the participation of representative groups to meet with select superintendent candidates. Working with school district personnel, I will coordinate and facilitate a variety of stakeholder sessions with groups such as students, instructional staff, administrators, labor unions and parents/caregivers, to meet the select candidates and engage in discussion with them. Feedback from these sessions is considered by the Board as they make their determination.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT IS SOUGHT

In addition to engaging with select candidates as described above, the Board is seeking stakeholder input with regard to the characteristics and qualifications sought for the next Superintendent. To gather your feedback, we are using a survey tool called ThoughtExchange. The ThoughtExchange results will be used to help develop questions for the candidate interviews and to determine the fit of candidates with the SVCSO community.

The voices of the District and community matter, so your participation is crucial and valued. To participate, please visit: <https://www.svcsd.org/thoughtexchange> by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023.

I look forward to assisting the Board of Education in any way that I can throughout this time of transition!

Sincerely,

Patricia N. Kilburn, Ed.D.
District Superintendent
Search Consultant, Sauquoit Valley Central School District