

## PRESS/MEDIA RELEASE

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### 6 Candidates to Interview for West Ottawa Public Schools Superintendent

Holland, MI – The West Ottawa Public Schools (WOPS) Board of Education has identified six candidates to interview for Superintendent of Schools after reviewing applications from twenty-eight candidates.

The WOPS Superintendent Search posting closed on December 4, 2020, with considerable interest. By our evaluation, via an extensive paper screening, the applicant pool is very strong relative to other searches as it includes a high proportion of applicants with prior superintendent experience and numerous applicants with considerable district-wide administrative experience. Many of the applicants in this pool met the criteria established by the Board.

Applicant pool data for the West Ottawa Public Schools superintendent vacancy is as follows:

- **Highest Degree Received:** 36% earned an Ed.D. or Ph.D., 14% earned an Ed.S. or 6-year equivalent, 50% earned a MA/MS
- **Highest Position Experience:** 46% former/current superintendent, 39% assistant superintendent/central office, and 15% building administrators
- **Breadth of search:** 42% of candidates are from outside of Michigan

These interviews mark the beginning of a rigorous vetting process that will include a minimum of two rounds of public interviews as well as thorough background and reference checks.

Candidates being interviewed are as follows:

Efe Agbamu, Ed.D., Ass't Superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools, Minnesota

Anne Armstrong, MA, Ass't Superintendent, Human Resources, Hudsonville Public Schools

Timothy Bearden, MA, Chief Academic Officer, Detroit Country Day School

Steven Disney, Ph.D., Superintendent, River Forest Community School Corp, Indiana

Peter Licata, Ph.D., Regional Superintendent, Palm Beach County, Florida

Scott Smith, Ed.S., Superintendent, Cedar Springs Public Schools

Video interviews will be held at virtual public meetings on January 11 and 12, 2021, starting at 5:30 p.m. The Board of Education invites parents, family members, community members and district staff members to attend the interviews and offer feedback. Meeting links will be posted on the home page of the district website (<https://www.westottawa.net>) under News & Updates.

Superintendent search services are being provided by the Michigan Association of School Boards. Inquiries about the search should be directed to Greg Sieszputowski, Director of Leadership Development and Executive Search Services, 517.327.9224 or [gregs@masb.org](mailto:gregs@masb.org).

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