

Superintendent's Corner

"Administrative succession"

Superintendency

Monday, our Board of Education met with Richard Stowell, executive director of the Utah School Boards Association. Mr. Stowell and his staff will coordinate the initial steps in the search process for a superintendent and then serve as a resource for the Board throughout the balance of the process. The point of contact at the district level will be D'Lynn Poll, district business administrator.

Three projects are currently underway at the district level. D'Lynn Poll is working with the USBA in the development of a recruitment brochure that will be mailed to several contacts throughout the State of Utah. In many cases, those contacts will pass the information on to candidates outside of the state. The Board is developing a process that will provide both staff and community members with an opportunity to provide feedback on the most important characteristics and traits needed in the next superintendent. That process will include an on-line survey. The Board is also developing a committee that will be used to screen the "paper work" of candidates to help determine who should be selected as finalists and thus provided an interview.

The Board is balancing the need to conduct a speedy search while providing ample opportunity to get the best available candidate. The ultimate goal is to have an individual selected and functioning as the superintendent on/or before July 1.

Utah is experiencing one of the greatest turnovers in superintendents during the past several years. Of the state's forty-one districts, twelve will have changed superintendents from the time school began in the fall of 2009 and when school begins in the fall of 2010. The latest two openings have occurred in Morgan and Granite. Granite is the state's largest school district. Most districts are receiving between six and ten applicants for the position of superintendent.

My contract ends on June 30. My last "official" day at work will be June 24 although I will be available after that date on an "as needed" basis.

Morgan Elementary School

It has been an honor to also serve as the "acting" principal of Morgan Elementary School for approximately eighteen weeks during the current school year. Laraine Whitear feels the same way about her two years working with the students and staff of this school. The search for a new principal at MES has been both complicated and delayed by my resignation as the superintendent.

We have posted the position and accumulated some applications. We will continue to collect applications over the next few weeks. In addition to collecting applications from outside of the district, there is some interest in the position within the district. The Board is committed to selecting the best possible candidate whether it is from within or outside of the district.

With the many changes that will occur in the district this summer, it is essential to name a new principal as soon as possible. It is hoped that this can be accomplished before the middle of June. Until that time, I will continue to try to meet the needs of the students and staff at Morgan Elementary School.