

Billings School Board Selects Superintendent Finalists

The Billings School District 2 Board of Trustees selected candidates who will be invited to interview for the position of Superintendent at their regular school board meeting here Monday night. “We had an outstanding pool of candidates, which made it very difficult to narrow the field,” according to Billings Board Chair, Malcolm Goodrich. “We are anxious to meet the individuals selected to find out more about their background and experiences,” Goodrich said. “We hope the community will join us as we get to know these candidates and go through our interview process,” Goodrich said.

The finalists to be invited to interview in Billings are:

R. Keith Beeman – currently serves as Associate Superintendent for Human Resources for the Chino Valley Unified School District in Chino, California. He served as a Leadership/Educational Consultant with the Oakland Unified School District. He was the Deputy Superintendent and Associate Superintendent for Human Resources in the Compton Unified School District in Compton, California. He served as Director of Human Resources in Weld County School District, Greeley, Colorado and Supervisor of Secondary Personnel Services for the Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, Nebraska. He was Assistant Principal at Turner High School in Kansas City, Kansas and Principal at Gorham Junior-Senior High School in Gorham, Kansas. He earned his B.S. in Education – English – from Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri. He earned his Masters in School Administration from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

Eric Ely -- currently serves as the Superintendent of the Schenectady City School District (New York). He served as the Assistant Superintendent for Operations in Schenectady. He served as a High School Principal in Dover, New Hampshire, Zanesville, Ohio, and Huber Heights, Ohio. Mr. Ely was a High School and Junior High Math and Science Teacher in Greenfield, Ohio, Amanda, Ohio, and Chillicothe, Ohio. Mr. Ely earned his B.S. in Math & Science Education from Ohio State University and his M.S. in Educational Administration from the University of Dayton. He is a NCATE Principal/Superintendent in Educational Administration from the University of Dayton and has completed continuing education in organizational psychology from Union Graduate College in Schenectady, NY.

Barbara Hickman – **CANDIDATE HAS WITHDRAWN** - currently serves as Interim Superintendent of the Flagstaff Unified School District, Flagstaff, Arizona. She served as the Associate Superintendent in Flagstaff. She served as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Certified Personnel for the Patterson Joint Unified School District in Patterson, California. Ms. Hickman also served

as Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Principal for Student Supervision at Downey High School in Modesto, California. She earned a B.A. in Geology and a B.S. in Science Education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She holds a Masters in Educational Administration from Saint Mary's College of California.

Keith Meyer – currently serves as Assistant Superintendent of the Helena Public Schools. He served as Director of Educational Services and Elementary Principal in the Helena Public Schools. He served as the Superintendent/Principal of the Kessler Public School, Helena, Montana. He served as an Elementary Teacher and Gift & Talented Specialist for the Helena Public Schools. Mr. Meyer earned his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University – Bozeman. He earned his M.A. in School Administration from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado. He received his Superintendent's Endorsement from Montana State University – Bozeman.

Cole Pugh – **CANDIDATE HAS WITHDRAWN** - currently serves as Superintendent of Eagle Mountain – Saginaw Independent School District in Ft. Worth, Texas. He served as Superintendent of the San Angelo Independent School District in San Angelo, Texas. He has also served as Superintendent in West Columbia, Sinton, and Hawkins, Texas. Mr. Pugh was a Principal in New Summerfield and a Teacher/Coach in LaPoynor and Goose Creek (Baytown), Texas. Mr. Pugh earned a B.S. in Health and Physical Education/Biology and a M.Ed. in Physical Education/Education from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds an Ed.D. in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston. He has presented on a wide variety of educational issues and published a number of articles related to budgeting and auditing in school districts.

Scott Rogers – currently serves as Superintendent of Schools of the Minidoka County Joint School District in Rupert, Idaho. He served as Superintendent of the Butte County School District in Arco, Idaho. Mr. Rogers also served as Principal of the Snake River Middle School, Blackfoot, Idaho. He has been the Online Principal for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy – Idaho's largest virtual school. He served as Clinical Director of the Behavioral Health Center and serves as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. Mr. Rogers earned a B.S. in Psychology and German and an M.Ed. in School Psychology from Brigham Young University. He holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Rochville University, an accredited online university. He also earned an Ed. S. in Educational Leadership from Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

All candidates will be invited to attend a public open house at Billings Senior High School on Sunday, February 28. The finalists will tour SD2 facilities and the community on March 1 and 2 prior to a formal interview with the Board. Interviews are open to the public and will be held in the Board Room at the Lincoln Center.