

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SUPERINTENDENT FINALISTS
SELECTED BY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER SEARCH COMMITTEE**

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Cambridge, MA - The Cambridge School Committee today announced the names of the three finalist candidates to be considered for the position of Superintendent of Schools. A Town Hall Community Forum will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fitzgerald Auditorium at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School where members of the public may meet the finalists, to be followed by public interviews of the finalists by the full School Committee on October 16 at a Special Meeting.

The three finalists are:

Dr. Sergio M. Paez is a consultant to the Holyoke Public Schools, where he formerly led the district as Superintendent, appointed in 2013. Dr. Paez was previously Assistant Superintendent and English Language Learners Director for the Worcester Public Schools, and Language Acquisitions Director for the Leominster Public Schools. He also served as an Assistant Principal in Fitchburg where he began his educational career as an elementary bilingual teacher. Dr. Paez holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Fitchburg State College, Master's degree in School Administration from Harvard University, and Doctorate degree in Education from Boston College. Recent honors include the 2014 and 2015 Holyoke Early Literacy Initiative Award, 2014 Pacesetters Award, and 2015 Gateway Cities Innovation Award in Education.

Dr. Kenneth N. Salim is Superintendent of the Weymouth Public Schools, having held that position since 2012. Dr. Salim was previously employed by the Boston Public Schools as Senior Director of the Chief Academic Office, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Professional Development, Director of New Teacher Support and Teacher Development, Science Department Supervisor, and Technology Support Teacher Leader. He also served as Special Assistant for Policy and Planning for the San Francisco Unified School District. Dr. Salim holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Brown University and a Master's degree in Education Policy and Management and Doctoral degree in the Urban Superintendents Program from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Recent honors include membership in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Professional Development Brain Trust, the 2014 Governor's STEM Advisory Council, and the 2013 American Public University System Prize for Innovation in Online Education.

Dr. Stacy L. Scott is Superintendent of the Framingham Public Schools, having joined that district in 2012 following his previous appointment of Superintendent of the Dracut Public Schools. Dr. Scott was formerly Associate Superintendent for the Office of Shared Accountability at the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, Founder and President of the Center for Understanding Equity in Boston and Co-Founder, and Principal of ExecResults Consulting in Westford, MA. He also served as Director of Diversity at the Park School, taught Math and Spanish at the Noble and Greenough School, and has practiced as a Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Scott holds a Bachelor's degree in International Government from Harvard-Radcliffe, and Master's and Doctorate degrees in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Scott's recent presentations include Making Equity Work, Five Steps in Changing School Culture, and Accountability in Action.

The three finalists were selected from among a nationally generated candidate pool following screening and interviews conducted by a nineteen-member Superintendent Search Interview Committee (SSIC) which was convened in September. School Committee representatives Fred Fantini, Richard Harding and Patty Nolan joined the search committee which was comprised of a diverse cross-section of Cambridge Public Schools stakeholders inclusive of educational, parent/guardian, union, administrative, city, business, non-profit, diversity, and higher education representatives.

The School Committee launched a national search led by Hazard, Young and Attea (HYA) last spring to seek a successor for Dr. Jeffrey M. Young, who announced last year that he will be stepping down as Superintendent at the conclusion of this school year. The search, led by HYA President Hank Gmitro and search consultants Ed McCormick and John Connolly, yielded a pool of 42 applicants, 12 of whom were considered and seven of whom were interviewed by the search committee, resulting in these three finalist candidates being recommended to the School Committee for further consideration.

“It was such an honor and a pleasure to work with this team,” said Tracey Pratt, an Upper School Special Education teacher who served on the search committee. “I enjoyed the process and meeting all the wonderful, committed people who I may not otherwise have had the opportunity to connect with,” stated Geeta Pradhan, President of the Cambridge Community Foundation, who also served on the committee.

Other search committee members included parent representatives Trina Abbott, Sachiko Rodes, and Michael West; diversity representative Lewis Bryant; educational, union, and administrative representatives Ross Benson, Katie Charner-Laird, Terry Gist, and Maryann MacDonald; City Manager representative Ellen Semonoff; higher education representatives Bridget Rodriguez and Lloyd Sheldon Johnson; and business and non-profit representatives Karen Greenleaf, Jeff Lockwood, and Elissa Spelman. Nolan, Bryant, Charner-Laird, Rodriguez, and Greenleaf are also parents of Cambridge Public School students. CPS Executive Director for Human Resources and Superintendent Search Liaison Barbara Allen and Alanna Mallon, the Mayor’s Educational Liaison, are supporting the process.

“We look forward to the final phases of the search, and on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee, I extend sincere thanks and appreciation for the dedication and thoughtful work performed by each of the Superintendent Search Interview Committee members,” said David Maher, Mayor and School Committee chair. “There was a tremendous amount of synergy and forward-thinking gained by bringing this great, diverse group of talented people together. It has been the School Committee’s goal to have a transparent and inclusive process, informed throughout by the rich mosaic of voices of the City’s public school stakeholders. We hope that many people are able to join us at the Town Hall Community Forum to meet the candidates on October 15, and welcome this additional opportunity for community engagement and feedback.”

The initial interviews performed by the Superintendent Search Interview Committee were preceded by a series of over forty community focus groups, coffees, and surveys, leading to the development of a leadership profile that reflected the opinions of over 600 stakeholders.

Other School Committee members include incumbents Fran Cronin, Kathleen Kelly, and Mervan Osborne. The Community Forum will be broadcast on Channel 99, and can also be livestreamed online at the Cambridge Public Schools website, www.cpsd.us. Those attending will be provided the opportunity to give written feedback to the School Committee and a feedback form will also be included on the CPS website’s Superintendent Search link for those engaging while at home. Members of the public may also submit online advance suggestions for questions to be posed to the candidates at the Forum.

Prior to Thursday evening’s Town Hall Community Forum, the three finalists will visit the district to tour elementary, upper, and high school classrooms, and will also meet with CRLS student representatives.

The School Committee anticipates making a selection decision prior to the end of October.

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