

March 25, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANASTOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah New, Board President
Bill Haddad, Board Vice-President
Tim Bazan, Member
Loran Crosby, Member
Douglas Gustin, Member
Wesley Hood, Member
Kathleen Niles, Member

Canastota Board of Education Selects Superintendent Search Finalists

On March 25 and 26, the Canastota Central School District Board of Education will continue its search for a new Superintendent of Schools when the two finalists visit the school district. During the course of the visits, the candidates will meet with representatives of the student leadership groups, community and parents, as well as the administrative, teaching and non-instructional staff. While visiting the district, the candidates will have the opportunity to tour some of the facilities and learn more about the culture of the district.

Following the visits by the two candidates, the Board of Education will select a final candidate for further consideration. The Board anticipates the appointment of a Superintendent no later than the end of April. The two finalists for the position are:

Mr. Shawn Bissetta will be in the district on Monday, March 25th. Mr. Bissetta currently serves as the Superintendent of Oxford Academy and Central Schools in Chenango County, a position he has held since 2015. Prior to that role, he served as Superintendent of Mount Markham Central Schools for nearly two years. He served as the Junior-Senior High School Principal in Port Byron for 11 years, including six years in a concurrent role as K-12 Coordinator of Curriculum and Staff Development. He also served as Assistant Middle School Principal in Phoenix, Program Supervisor of a Regional Summer School at Onondaga Community College, a GED instructor and coordinator at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, a social studies teacher at Chittenango High School, and a basketball and softball coach in Jamesville-Dewitt. Mr. Bissetta was a member of the inaugural cohort of the Future Superintendents Academy and served as Chairman of the Cayuga-Onondaga Secondary Principals Association. He received the Cayuga-Onondaga School Boards Association's Administrator of the Year award for the 2008-09 school year and the 2008 Distinguished Education Award from the APEX Leadership Organization. Mr. Bissetta holds a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in physical education and a master's degree in social studies education from Syracuse University; and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Cortland.

Mr. Jason Mitchell will be in the district on Tuesday, March 26th. Mr. Mitchell currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in Canastota, a position he has held since 2014. Prior

to that, he was the Middle/High School Principal in the Poland Central School District. In both roles, he has worked as Acting Superintendent. He began his career as a social studies teacher, working at New Hartford High School and at a middle school in Virginia, and has coached track, basketball, and football. He has also worked as an English as a Second Language tutor at Donovan Middle School in Utica. Mr. Mitchell completed the Educational Leadership Mohawk Valley program and subsequently served as a mentor. He is the treasurer of the Oneida County History Center Board of Trustees, a certified trainer in the OLWEUS bullying prevention program and served on the Mohawk Valley School Administrators Organization's Assessment Committee and as a New Principal Mentor. Mr. Mitchell received a 2013 Genesis Award for Excellence in Education, the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities' Administrator of the Year Award in 2013 and a 2007 Accent on Excellence Award for Mohawk Valley leaders under age 40. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Hamilton College, where he also completed a teacher education program; a master's degree in social studies from SUNY Albany; and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership and Administration from Utica College.

"Having worked diligently for the last few months in this search, and now giving the community their opportunity to visit and learn more about the candidates, the Board hopes that we can conclude this process in a timely manner in the best interests of our community." Board President Deborah New said.

The Board will appoint the new Superintendent mid to late April.