

Press Release/Announcement

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Eureka County School Board names three finalists to be District's next Superintendent

The Eureka County School District Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that three (3) finalists have been selected for further consideration to be the District's next Superintendent beginning July 1, 2019. With the assistance of a screening committee facilitated by the Search Consultant, a field of 20 applicants was considered. From the field, several interview candidates were recommended to the School Board which conducted a series of interviews before making these selections. The finalists are:

Tate W. Else

Since 2017, Tate Else has been the Director of Special Services for the Elko County School District in Elko, Nevada serving about 10,000 students. Before his district office position at Elko County, Else was an elementary Principal or Vice Principal for five years. His teaching experience includes several years as a social studies and special education teacher in Elko and Fernley. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Teacher Education program for Great Basin College. Else has a Masters of Education in Education Leadership from the University of Nevada – Las Vegas and a Bachelor of Science in Social Science Broadfield from the University of Montana – Western.

Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson is the Chief Financial Officer for the White Pine County School District in Ely, Nevada, a position he has held since 1997. Before his White Pine position, he was the Business Manager for Terra West Realty & Development in Las Vegas for 2 years. He has been Assistant Coach and Head Coach for the White Pine High School Boys Basketball team since 2008 and holds a Nevada License for Educational Personnel. Johnson was appointed to the White Pine County Commission in 2002. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with accounting emphasis from the University of Nevada – Las Vegas. He has recently completed a program in Educational Leadership from the National Institute of Instructional Leaders at Southern Utah University.

Benjamin M. Merrill

Ben Merrill has been the High School Principal at Middleton School District in Middleton, Idaho serving 1,280 students for the last 2 years. Before Middleton, he was the Principal and Director of Instructional Technology in the Baker School District in Baker City, Oregon for 5 years and High School Principal in the Mt. Angel School District in Mt. Angel, Oregon for 1 year. For three years he was a Superintendent/Principal for the Notus School District in Caldwell, Idaho serving 420 students. While in Baker City, he also served as a City Councilman. He has a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management from Capella University and a Master of Education in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University.

The Eureka County School Board will now begin thorough background and reference checks for these finalists. While the background and reference checks are underway, the Board will bring the finalists to the District for an opportunity to meet with staff and community on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. The exact times for meetings and an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates are not yet scheduled. The Board will also conduct a second interview with each finalist to finish the visit. The Board expects to announce the next steps in the Superintendent search soon.

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