

January 11, 2023

Dear WPS Families:

As we mentioned in a December communication, the School Committee has begun the process of hiring a new Superintendent. Most recently, the School Committee has engaged James Hardy, Field Director for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), to serve as an independent consultant to assist with the recruiting process. Mr. Hardy has been a member of the MASC staff for over twenty-five years and has been lead consultant on more than five dozen superintendent searches.

It is critically important to seek input from students, educators and parents in this process. There will be several ways for you to get involved.

First, we are seeking several parent/guardian representatives to serve on a search committee. The search committee will be comprised of individuals representing various constituencies, including school committee members, educators, parents, students, and town partners. The committee will screen applications, conduct initial interviews and recommend several candidates to the School Committee as finalists in the process. The screening committee will meet at the following times and you must be available to attend all meetings:

- February 15, 5:30 pm - 8 pm: Planning Session
- March 13, March 14, March 15 and March 16: 5 pm - 8 pm: Interviews & Deliberation
- March 17, 9 am - 12 pm: Interviews and Deliberation (con't)

If you are interested in serving on the search committee and are available to participate in person in all of the sessions above, please email Harley Pease at [hpease@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:hpease@westwood.k12.ma.us). In your email, please include your full name, your phone number, describe your role within the WPS community, and share a short paragraph about your interest in serving on the committee and relevant experience. If a large number of parents/guardians express interest in being on the search committee, we will select individuals to create a group that represents diverse perspectives (e.g. parent/guardians of students in PreK - 5, middle school, and high school and in both general education and special education). If you are selected for the search committee, you will be notified by Tony Mullin and/or Maya Plotkin, co-chairs of the search committee.

Second, we are asking all District families to participate in an [online survey](#) that is open from now until Friday, January 20. The survey is anonymous and will provide us with important insight regarding community priorities for the next superintendent, which will help inform the screening and selection process.

Finally, there will be opportunities for community members to meet the finalist candidates and provide feedback to the School Committee to assist in its deliberations.

Thank you for your assistance with this important search - we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Westwood School Committee

Charlie Donahue, Chair

Tony Mullin, Vice-Chair

Amanda Phillips, Clerk

Maya Plotkin

Dorothy Parmelee