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Woodstock Board of Education Enters Contract Negotiations with Superintendent Finalist

WOODSTOCK – Following a successful *ad hoc* Superintendent Search Advisory Committee meeting of Woodstock schools and community stakeholders on Thursday, February 18, the Board of Education has offered the position of superintendent to Viktor Toth and commenced contract negotiations. The school board expects to appoint Toth as superintendent in a regular or special board meeting to be scheduled subsequent to completion of contract negotiations.

The school board hired Trumbull-based Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.) to conduct the search for a new superintendent to fill the position previously held by Francis Baran who retired from Woodstock in June, 2015. During the research phase of the search process, the C.E.S. search consultant conducted community focus groups and administered an online survey to assess the leadership attributes and personal qualities the community desired for the next Woodstock superintendent.

During the recruitment phase of the search process, ten candidates submitted applications for the position. In the selection phase of the search process, four candidates from the pool of ten were interviewed by the search committee, the Woodstock Board of Education. Two of the four candidates interviewed were advanced in the search process through additional interviews with the search committee and the interview meeting with the Superintendent Search Advisory Committee. As a result of the search committee's final review of the vast body of data they had collected and through their final deliberations, Toth emerged as the lead candidate for the Woodstock superintendent position.

Viktor Toth, a long-term employee of the Woodstock Public Schools and former principal of Woodstock Elementary School, was appointed to the position of Interim Superintendent in July, 2015. In addition to the required Connecticut certifications for executive leadership, Toth holds a Master's degree in music education from UCONN and a Bachelor's degree in music from Baldwin-Wallace College.

Viktor Toth's educational career spans more than 30 years with experience primarily in elementary and middle school positions in Woodstock. He began his education career by working five years as a music education teacher for the Lebanon Public Schools before seeking employment in Woodstock. After serving in the position of music teacher for the Woodstock Public Schools for eight years, Toth served as a short-term principal of the Woodstock Middle School in 1995-1996 and as the acting superintendent for Woodstock for one year in 2001-2002, while concurrently serving in the position of elementary school principal - a post he held from 1997 to July 1, 2015 when he assumed the position of Interim Superintendent.

“Viktor brings a wealth of Woodstock history and experience to the position,” said Michael Bernardi, Chairman of the Woodstock Board of Education. “He impressed the search committee with his apparent and relevant leadership qualities, the strength of his elementary and middle school background, and his sincere commitment and dedication to the Woodstock Public Schools. The Board of Education stands ready to work with Viktor towards creating and sustaining a shared vision for ongoing improvement and further development of educational opportunities for the children of Woodstock.”