Written by Mark Jaeger
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School Board to hold superintendent interviews with finalists next week

The field of candidates looking to become the next superintendent of the Northern Ozaukee School District has been narrowed to three.

School Board members will get their first face-to-face contact with the three finalists next week, and Board President Paul Krause said the position should be filled by the middle of the month.

The finalists are: Ted Neitzke, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction with the West Bend School District; T.S. Woznicki, superintendent with the Florence School District; and Penny Boileau, superintendent with the Winter School District.

Up until this time, all of the contact with the original eight applicants seeking to succeed Supt. Bill Harbron has been through representatives of the National Network of Digital Schools, the company which has been hired to conduct the superintendent search. The Pennsylvania firm will also be operating the district's virtual school program starting in fall.

An 18-member community committee met last week to review resumes of the candidates, evaluating their strengths and formulating questions they want the School Board to pursue during next Tuesday's interviews.

"The people at NNDS tell us we have some highly qualified candidates. I am anxious to meet them. We are looking for an administrator who can lead the district not just for the immediate future, but who can help create a vision for years to come," Krause said.

He said the board expects the new superintendent will be on the job by June. A community "dinner and conversation" meeting with the new administrator is expected some time after graduation.

Harbron has been superintendent since 2001. By mutual agreement, he decided to step down from the position at the end of this school year.

Although he has offered advice on the mechanics of the hiring process, Krause said Harbron has not been involved in screening the candidates.

At one point, the board said it would consider contracting with a outside management team to provide administrative services to the district, but officials have since determined it is more feasible to hire a superintendent directly.

Krause said progress is also being made in the hiring of a new principal who will lead Ozaukee High School and Ozaukee Middle School

"There has been overwhelming response," Krause said.

Kevin Parker is leaving the high school at the end of the current school year and Pam Warner is

retiring from the middle school position.

Preliminary interviews are being conducted by the remaining administrators, Ozaukee Elementary School Principal Cindy Dallman and Pupil Services Director Barb Peterka.