

January 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Bennett Valley School Community,

I'm writing to update you on our search for our next superintendent. As you know, Dr. Sue Field is retiring at the end of June after 30 years of exceptional service to our district, initially as Principal at Strawberry School and for the last 27 as Superintendent. We have begun the process to recruit, interview, and hire our district's next superintendent.

The Board of Trustees has contracted with Dr. Scott Mahoney of Mahoney Searches to assist us with the process. Scott is a retired superintendent and now works as a consultant, specializing in superintendent searches. He was superintendent in the Waugh School District in Petaluma for nineteen years and retired from the Ross School District in Marin County. He was also the principal at Bennett Valley School from 1989 to 1991! Scott's experience has focused on districts similar to Bennett Valley, having assisted sixteen small school districts in Lake, Marin, Napa, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties with their searches for a superintendent or superintendent/principal. Assisting Scott will be Dr. Tom Lohwasser, retired long-time superintendent from the Dixie School District (now Miller Creek School District) in Marin County.

Scott and Tom will be gathering input from both individuals and groups of employees, parents, and community members regarding desired professional qualifications and personal attributes of our next superintendent. The input will be used to develop advertising materials, screening criteria, interview questions, and will assist the Board in making our final decision. Input gathering will take place during the next several weeks. Scott and Tom will be reaching out to:

- Sue Field
- Employees in groups (Zoom) and individually
- Parents in groups (Zoom) and individually
- Association of Parents and Teachers
- Bennett Valley Education Foundation
- School Site Council
- English Language Advisory Committee
- Bennett Valley Teachers Association leadership
- Bennett Valley Classified Employees Association leadership
- School board members
- School and District Office employees
- Other groups and individuals as needed

If you have specific input that you would like to share you may also email Scott or Tom at any time at MahoneySearches@gmail.com , or dr.tomloh@gmail.com, or call them at 707 953-3434 (Scott), or 707 616-9630 (Tom). Scott will send information soon about how to access the online survey and dates and times for Zoom input meetings.

After advertising and screening applicants, our Board will interview top prospects in late March. We hope to announce our next superintendent at an April regular meeting. e or she will then officially start on July 1.

We will keep you up to date during the process on our district website and at our board meetings.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brott, Board President
Bennett Valley Union School District