## Wolcott Superintendent Search Starts With Focus Groups, Survey

## Contact:

## Cynthia Mancini, Superintendent Search Committee chair

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**WOLCOTT, CT** – The Wolcott Board of Education has begun the process of identifying a new Superintendent of Schools and has selected Cooperative Educational Services (CES) to conduct the search.

Board of Education Chair Cynthia Mancini is leading the Superintendent Search Committee, which includes all of the Board of Education members. The next superintendent is expected to be chosen in early August following a series of interviews with candidates and begin work Nov. 1, 2022, replacing Superintendent Anthony Gasper, who will leave the position June 30.

The community will have the opportunity to participate and guide the search by providing feedback in focus groups and an online survey.

"I encourage everyone in the town and school community to participate in the online survey or at one of the focus groups," Mancini said. "It is vital that we gather the community's input as we select our next superintendent of schools to succeed Dr. Gasper, who has provided us great leadership during his tenure in Wolcott.

CES has already begun recruiting candidates and sharing the posting information. It has reached out to nearly 2,000 current superintendents (and those certified to serve as superintendents) in the Northeast and approximately 7,750 more district leaders and regional superintendent organizations across the country. The job opening is also promoted on a number of state and national education-related websites.

The CES team will hold virtual Focus Group meetings to collect feedback and identify desirable leadership characteristics in the next superintendent. A schedule for the focus groups is below and a link to the virtual sessions can be found on a Superintendent Search page on the district's website at <u>www.wolcottps.org</u>.

- Students: May 25, 1:15 p.m., live at Wolcott High School
- Teachers: May 25, 3:20 p.m., Zoom meeting
- Administrators: May 26, 3 p.m., Zoom meeting
- Town officials: May 26, 4 p.m., Zoom meeting
- Parents: May 26, 6 p.m., Zoom meeting
- Community: June 6, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting

An online survey is open to Wolcott residents and school district staff, accessible now through June 5, 2022, at 11:55 p.m. Links to the survey, plus other updates throughout the search, will be found at <u>www.wolcottps.org</u>.

CES is a Trumbull-based agency that provides support and services to school districts and communities in Fairfield County through its school and programs. Its Executive Searches division has helped districts secure qualified candidates to fill superintendent, principal and other school administrative positions for districts and schools throughout Connecticut. Facilitating the search will be CES Search Consultants Dr. Charles Dumais and David Erwin.