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NEWS

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Cape board contracts with UD on superintendent search

By Leah Hoenen

The Cape Henlopen school board plans to partner with the University of Delaware as it searches for a new superintendent. The university's Institute for Public Administration will help the district advertise for a new superintendent and sort through applications.

Board member Roni Posner said she looked at search firms nationwide for two months before she found the Institute for Public Administration. She proposed a contract with the school Thursday, Sept. 23. Posner said the search will involve three community meetings – in Lewes, Milton and Rehoboth – to seek community input about what the district needs in a superintendent.

She said the district will use community comments to put together a leadership profile and then will advertise the position.

The Institute for Public Administration will help the district sort through the applications it receives to assemble a final pool of applicants to consider, ranking the final three best candidates, Posner said. Board President Spencer Brittingham asked to modify the plan because he said the board does not need the university to rank the final three candidates. He said assigning them ranks could create biases through the interview and final selection process.

Minard voted against the plan. "I voted no because I as a board member have a fiduciary responsibility to spend our taxpayers' money wisely and felt I needed more time to look at the proposal, as it was not included in the original packet," she said.

The school board hired Superintendent David Robinson in June on a one-year contract.

Board members Camilla Conlon and Noble Prettyman were not at the meeting. Brittingham, Posner, Andy Lewis and Sara Wilkinson voted in favor of the contract, which will cost \$13,200. The contract lasts from September 2010 to April 2011.

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