

Garden City Public Schools
56 Cathedral Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

Coordinator of Public Information
Catherine Knight, Ed. D.
516 478-1079

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For Immediate Release:



Garden City Public School’s Board of Education Announces the Selection of an Executive Search Firm

After interviewing three of the five executive search firms that responded to Garden City Public School’s Board of Education’s Request for Proposal (RFP) for a firm to conduct the district’s search for a permanent superintendent, Board President Angela Heineman announced the selection of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) at the August 8th Regular Meeting.

“We chose HYA because of their successful work with similar districts in Nassau County and the region,” commented Board President Angela Heineman. “We look forward to working with Senior Associate Deborah S. Raizes and Associate Robert J. Roelle in the task of selecting the next superintendent for Garden City Public Schools.”

Pending approval of the contract, the BOE and HYA will begin the pre-planning stages of the superintendent's search. HYA will be working closely with the Board to seek out, recruit, and present a slate of finalists for the permanent position of Superintendent of Schools based on HYA's Leadership Profile as developed from input collected from all constituent groups, including the greater Garden City community.

In a formal statement from the Board of Education at the August meeting, Mrs. Heineman explained:

"On tonight's agenda, is a resolution to appoint executive search consultant Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to assist the Board in its search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

Since Dr. Feirsen announced his retirement back in April, the Board has been working diligently to effectuate a smooth and efficient transition process; one that will enable us to continue not only with business as usual, but also continue to move forward with our District's mission and goals.

To that end, we hired an experienced former Superintendent, Dr. Groveman, to serve as Interim Superintendent for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Groveman began officially as Interim Superintendent on August 1st. He also spent five very busy and productive transition days in the district meeting with administrators and staff, the police commissioner and Village staff, district architects and construction manager, and touring all our facilities.

As we have outlined previously, the next step in the process was to engage a search consultant to assist us with the search for a permanent Superintendent to begin by August 1, 2018. With Ms. DiCapua's help, we developed an RFP which was released in June, received five proposals in response, carefully evaluated those proposals and interviewed three finalists. After conducting lengthy interviews with each finalist and checking references, the Board is very pleased to begin working with the search team of Deborah Raizes and Robert Roelle from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to find the next Superintendent of Schools for Garden City Public Schools.

We chose the HYA team because of their extensive experience with similar districts in Nassau County and the region, their national network, their reasoned, thorough, pro-active approach to the search process, their level of service, and their track record of success in identifying educational leaders for other high performing districts, like Garden City. The Board's most important job is hiring the Superintendent. The combination of Bob Roelle's 20 years of experience as a Superintendent of Schools and Debbie Raizes' experience as an educator, a school and university Board member, and her 20 years as a search consultant will serve us well in our search for the district's next educational leader. Our lead consultant, Debbie Raizes, has conducted approximately 80 searches, mostly in high-performing districts in Westchester and Fairfield counties, and on Long Island.

We are currently preparing for the Board's initial planning meeting with Hazard Young, in early September. At that initial meeting, we expect to outline the timeline and steps of the search process. After that, we will inform the community of the next steps and provide information on the various avenues for gathering community input: electronic survey, interviews, focus groups, or open forum. As we have said from the beginning, the board is focused, we are working as a team, the consultants will assist us in seeking input from the community and constituent groups, and we will continue to keep the community apprised of progress as the process unfolds.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with Hazard Young and look forward to beginning this very important process.”

As the Board will be focusing much of their efforts toward the transition period and the superintendent search, the four remaining members unanimously decided to leave the seat vacated by Laura Hastings last month open until the next board election in May. “We should remain focused on the efforts of the search and the business at hand,” said President Heineman. The District’s attorney, Ms. Bonnie Gorham, was present at the meeting and reviewed the Board’s options in such circumstances: 1) Appoint a new trustee to fill the position until the May election; 2) Hold a special election; or 3) Leave the seat vacant until the next election. “The electoral process will go forward,” Ms. Gorham, explained. “The election process will take place and the elected Board member will take his/her place the next day.”



In a ceremonial swearing in at the start of the August 8th Board meeting, Dr. Alan Groveman, Garden City’s Interim Superintendent of Schools, took the pledge of office for the benefit of the public (he was previously sworn in on August 1st in the Administration Building by District Clerk Ms. Dana DiCapua). Dr. Groveman explained the activities during the transitional days he spent with now-retired Superintendent Dr. Robert Feirsen in July, and complimented Dr. Feirsen on his thoroughness and willingness to provide support during the transition period.