

## **Superintendent search firm chosen**

### **RCSD hopes to have new hire in place by fall**

**JUSTIN MURPHY**

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The Rochester school board has settled on a search firm to help find the next superintendent and hopes to have that person in place by the fall, School Board President Van White said Monday.

From eight applicants, the school board chose a proposal from the Western New York Educational Service Council, a firm associated with the University of Buffalo's graduate school of education. It has conducted hundreds of searches in districts across the state, including in Buffalo, New York City, Fairport and Penfield. The cost to the district will be about \$19,000, White said, which is less than the district paid for its last search, which yielded Bolgen Vargas.

"They really seem to know the business, the players in our area and the challenges the Big 5 have with receivership and other things that affect us," White said.

The district will use WNYESC to conduct a series of community focus groups to determine the most important characteristics for the new leader. The firm will then cull through applications to produce some finalists to be vetted in public, White said. The hope is to have a short list of candidates by the spring so one can be approved by the end of the school year and on the job by August or September.

Linda Cimusz, the current interim superintendent, has said she's not interested in the permanent appointment.

White has pledged to search nation-wide for a candidate.

The school board is expected to formally approve the contract with WNYESC at its meeting Thursday.

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**Rochester City School District needs a new superintendent.**

STAFF FILE PHOTO 2011



**Linda Cimusz**



**Van White**