

Cala would consider RCSD job

JUSTIN MURPHY

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William Cala, the former Fairport Central School District superintendent who once served as the interim leader in Rochester, said Friday he would consider returning to the city on a permanent basis, if asked. The city school district is about to embark on a search for a replacement for Bolgen Vargas, who will step down in December. Former Syracuse Superintendent Daniel Lowengard will then serve on an interim basis, but he has said he does not want to stay long.

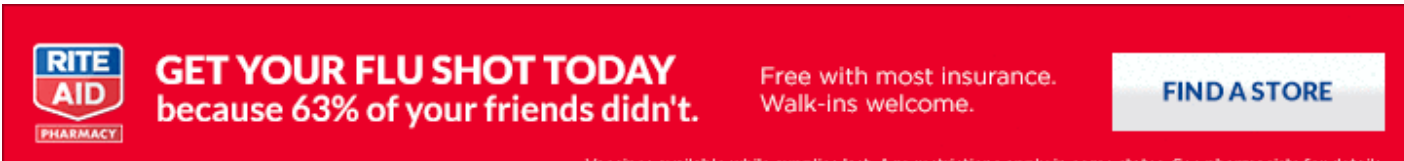
"I'm not eliminating it," Cala said when asked about his interest. "It's something I would consider. Something has to give. It's just unbearable to me to watch another person come in who ... doesn't have the right motives."

School Board President Van White said earlier this week that the board is only now beginning its search process for a new leader. He could not describe exactly what the process would look like, except to say there would be extensive community engagement. He also said there is no short or long list of candidates yet.

Cala, 66, wrapped up his second stint as Fairport superintendent this spring.

He is an outspoken opponent of the school reform movement, particularly its emphasis on testing.

He was interim superintendent for part of 2007, after the departure of Manuel Rivera and before the arrival of Jean-Claude Brizard. "I've worked with urban children, suburban, rural kids, in Africa and here," he said. "I think I know what to do and where the focus ought to be. ... Not that any one person is going to work miracles, but I certainly know my priority is children, not politicians and not what's expedient."



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William Cala