



Colfax-Mingo School Board Names 4 Finalists for Next District Superintendent

May 26, 2022

COLFAX, IA — The Colfax-Mingo Community School District School Board has announced the four finalists in its search for the district's next superintendent. The finalists are Chris Bergman, Bret Miller, Derek Philips, and Timothy Salmon.

Bergman is the current superintendent of the Clarinda Community School District, where she has created student-empowered leadership opportunities, led the development of the district's Portrait of a Graduate, and improved professional learning communities for teachers and staff. She was also selected to be an Association of Business and Industry Statewide Education Panelist. Previously, Bergman was a middle school principal and teacher in the Waukee CSD, as well as a teacher in the West Des Moines CSD.

Miller currently serves as director of teaching and learning for the Newton CSD. There, he has led a district-wide effort to implement and achieve certification as a High Reliability School, while also implementing a new observation and evaluation process directly aligned to the district's instructional framework and best practices. Before that, Miller was a middle school principal in the Woodward-Granger CSD and a student services coordinator in the West Des Moines CSD.

As principal of Columbus Elementary School in Chariton, Iowa, Philips leads a staff of 50 and 330 students in pre-kindergarten through second grade with a focus on creating a collaborative culture through embedded professional development. He has also worked to create a systematic approach to special education across the district. Before that, Philips was associate principal at Liberty Elementary in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Salmon serves as regional administrator for the Grant Wood Area Education Agency in Cedar Rapids. There, he has collaborated with various school districts to deliver an array of educational program and service options to meet individual student needs. He is also the lead instructor and coordinator of the AEA's Principal Leadership Project. Salmon previously served as superintendent and principal in the United CSD and as principal of Horizon Elementary School in Johnston, Iowa.

District leaders and the Board of Education have been working with [Grundmeyer Leader Services](#) to conduct the search. There were 26 total applicants, including five female candidates and seven who hold a doctorate degree. As a next step, the board and stakeholder interview teams will conduct final interviews with each of the four finalists on Tuesday, May 31. The board will then discuss the candidates and reach a final decision soon after the formal interviews.

The next superintendent will begin serving the Colfax-Mingo Community School District effective July 1, 2022.