

Courtesy of the Hartford Courant
Mark Spencer, Courant Staff Writer

Thursday, October, 26, 2006

TOWN POISED FOR SCHOOLS CHIEF

CANTON-- *Kevin D. Case*, the principal at Simsbury's Squadron Line School for the past six years, is the finalist to become the new superintendent of schools in **Canton**.

Although the board of education will not vote on the appointment until Monday, school board Chairman Lou Daniels said Wednesday that Case is the unanimous choice of the 12-member search committee, which includes all nine school board members.

"He's going to match up perfectly with our town and our school district, our administrators, teachers and students," Daniels said. "We saw him as a match from top to bottom and that was what was important."

Case, 42, was one of five candidates interviewed for the job. Eliza K. Holcomb, a consultant with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education who led the search, said those candidates were drawn from the 20 who applied for the position.

"I've always wanted the opportunity to lead a high-achieving school district," Case said Wednesday.

He said Simsbury and **Canton** are similar in that both towns have "high expectations for student achievement."

Susanne Russell, president of the Education Association of **Canton**, on the search committee, said Case impressed the group by indicating he would work to be visible in the community, which is especially important in a small town. Russell's association represents teachers in the district. The president of the union that represents administrators also served on the search committee.

"Immediately, we felt he was a good fit for our town," Russell said. "He always talked about working cooperatively and collaboratively."

Case was a vice principal at Squadron Line School, then spent two years as principal at Tarringford School in Torrington before returning to Squadron Line as principal. He has been an elementary school teacher and served on the Region 7 and Barkhamsted boards of education.

"I believe that everything we do in a school system should be focused on student achievement," Case said.

He received a bachelor's degree in education from Central Connecticut State University in 1985 and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from the University of Hartford in 1990. He later earned a certificate of advanced graduate study and educational leadership in 1996 and received his superintendent's certification in 2003.

He and his wife, Lenore, live in Barkhamsted, with their three children.

Daniels said Case's salary is still being negotiated. Daniels said it will likely be in the \$130,000 range, the salary former Superintendent Anthony Serio would have received this year if he had not taken a superintendent's job in Massachusetts. Daniels said the school board is still researching what superintendents earn in surrounding towns.

Canton officials are visiting Simsbury today to finish collecting information on Case, and Case will visit all *Canton* schools on Monday. The school board will hold a forum to introduce Case to residents at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the *Canton* Community Center, 40 Dyer Ave., then have board discussion and a vote on the appointment at 8 p.m.

“The biggest challenge, and the most important thing I'll be doing, is getting to know as many people as possible in *Canton*,” Case said.