

Rome BOE interviews 5 superintendent candidates

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The final five candidates for the leader of **Rome City Schools** were interviewed by board of education members Saturday.

The board held a called meeting Saturday at Georgia Highlands College, spending about eight hours interviewing and talking about what would come next.



Rome City Schools

“We are going to meet again on Jan. 31 at Georgia Highlands,” explained Faith Collins, board chair. “We will have to discuss these candidates again.”

Collins said that the board wants to take their time and choose the best possible candidate.

“We had discussed narrowing down the list during this meeting, but the board consensus was that we want to take our time and review and discuss again,” she explained.

The five candidates — four men and one woman — were all impressive, Collins said. The board is not required to release the names of those being considered until the list is narrowed down to three.

“They all had thorough knowledge of our schools and our history,” she said. “They had done their research and it was a very good interview process.”

The board does not have a definite idea of when they will make a decision, she said. “We want to make the best choice, so we are taking our time this time,” Collins said. “We want our students to have a leader in place who will be here long-term.”

The board originally received 46 applicants for the position.

The applicant pool consisted of 15 from Alabama, 13 from Georgia, two from Tennessee, four from Florida, one from New Mexico, one from Pennsylvania, two from Maryland, one from Mississippi, two from New York, two from Indiana, two from Colorado and one from Oregon. There are 28 men applying and 18 women.

Lou Byars — Rome City Schools’ chief operations officer — has been acting as interim superintendent since mid-September. He took the helm after former superintendent Michael Buck retired from the system in September because of family obligations.

Byars said he did apply for the position.

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