

Board getting closer to finding superintendent

• Rome City Schools board members hold a closed session meeting to discuss the five candidates left in the running for the top position.

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Faith Collins

Board members are getting closer but have not yet announced their finalists for the superintendent of Rome City Schools.

Rome Board of Education members met Tuesday at Georgia Highlands College to discuss the five candidates they interviewed several weeks ago.

"We made no decision Tuesday, but I am hoping that soon, we will have narrowed the list down to three candidates," said Faith Collins, chair of the board. "We decided to go home and deliberate on our own for a bit over the decision."

Once they are ready to narrow down to three, Collins said the board would hold another called meeting to announce their names.

The five candidates — four men and one woman — were all impressive, Collins said.

"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 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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