

## **An Open Letter to the Canastota Central School District Community**

Dear Community Members:

During this coming school year, the Board of Education of the Canastota Central School District will undertake the task of hiring a new Superintendent. We have invited District Superintendent Jackie Starks from the Madison-Oneida BOCES to facilitate the search process. In the initial stage of this process, we are assessing the overarching needs of the district to determine the type of candidate we believe will be best suited to move our district forward in the coming years.

In addition to our own analysis, we would like to engage various members of the Canastota Central School District community to inform our decision making. In the coming month, we will form focus groups comprised of members of six stakeholder groups to include: instructional staff, non-instructional staff, our school leadership team, students and parents and community members. By way of this correspondence, we are seeking a maximum of 12 parents and 12 community/business volunteers, willing to provide us with their insights regarding the strengths of our organization as well as opportunities for growth. We are also seeking input into what the community believes are the essential qualities and characteristics of our new leader.

The focus groups will be facilitated by District Superintendent Starks, who will provide the feedback received directly to the Canastota Board of Education. We anticipate your participation will require only a few hours of your time.

If you are interested in serving on one of these community/parent focus groups, please notify Mrs. Tami Patane, Secretary to the Superintendent, in writing or email at [tpatane@canastotacsd.org](mailto:tpatane@canastotacsd.org), no later than Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We are specifically looking for parents and community members who do not already fit within our other interest groups identified above. Ms. Starks will oversee the recruiting of participants for instructional staff, non-instructional staff, school leadership team and students.

It is our intent to reach the entire community with this invitation to participate. Please feel free to share this information with any/all interested parties. Should we receive interest from more than 12 parents and 12 community members, participants will be selected by lottery by the District Superintendent.

We would like to thank the entire Canastota community for its ongoing support for our school. The success of the students is truly a collaborative effort, which depends on the hard work of our entire community.

Thank you,

The Board of Education for the Canastota Central School District

*Deborah New, President*

*Bill Haddad, Vice-President*

*Tim Bazan*

*Loren Crosby*

*Douglas Gustin*

*Wesley Hood*

*Kathleen Niles*