

NESHAMINY

Report: Kadri a finalist in Michigan

Neshaminy school board members said they can't comment on personnel issues.

By RACHEL CANELLI COURIER TIMES

Neshaminy Superintendent Paul Kadri is one of two finalists chosen for second interviews for a position to succeed a retiring superintendent in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in Michigan, according to online reports.

After the initial interviews this week, Kadri and Craig Fiegel of Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 in Evergreen Park, Ill., will tour the district, meet with faculty, administrators and members of the public, according to .

That Web site is affiliated with the Gannett Co. Inc. newspapers, the site said.

Kadri, 42, is scheduled for his second interview Tuesday, administrators said in the online report. Neshaminy hired him in June 2006 for a four-year contract at \$165,000 a year.

Kadri hasn't publicly stated if he's leaving Neshaminy. He's on a planned family vacation and couldn't be reached this week by cell phone.

Neshaminy school board President Richard Eccles said, "Unfortunately, I cannot comment on any personnel issue."

But board member William Spitz had more to say.

"Mr. Kadri has the support of the overwhelming majority of the Neshaminy community, including staff, students, parents and residents," he wrote in an e-mail to the Courier Times. "But there are a small number of influential people who clearly do not support him and who have made it impossible for him to be successful here. Because of that, I am saddened, but not surprised that he is looking elsewhere."

Spitz did not provide specifics.

Board member William O'Connor said, "I am sickened at the prospect of losing Mr. Kadri and it is my sincerest wish that he'll find reason to stay in Neshaminy."

O'Connor added, "Despite my frustration, out of respect to Mr. Kadri, I must withhold further comment for now."

Unlike in Pennsylvania, the search process in Michigan is open to the press and public.

In the online story, Plymouth-Canton board members described Kadri as an "out-of-the-box thinker and innovator." But they also expressed concern that Kadri might "make change for the sake of change."

They also said they wanted to know how he would control the budget, and wanted him to elaborate on problems with the current Neshaminy school board. Those issues weren't detailed in the article.

Plymouth-Canton board members also said they were disappointed he didn't tell them about a lawsuit by a female student with an immune deficiency who won the right to become valedictorian while he was superintendent in Moorestown, N.J., in 2003.

Kadri had decided that, despite that student's high grade-point average and since she was also schooled at home, she should share the title with another student.

Plymouth-Canton board members said they liked Fiegel's knowledge of their district, financial background and reportedly good communication with his current board. But they also said they're worried that his district is smaller than the Michigan area schools and an elementary district only.

If one or both of the candidates remain finalists, the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education could make a hiring decision Feb. 19. At that point, board members said they would visit each man's current district.





Paul Kadri