

Dear Masconomet Community:

The Superintendent Search Subcommittee of the Masconomet Regional District School Committee is pleased to have unanimously recommended two finalists to the next step of public interviews with School Committee.

Details on the finalists and the upcoming site visits and public interviews are available below. The School Committee is asking for your feedback to support evaluation of our finalists.

Parents, educators, community members and anyone invested in the future of the Masconomet Regional School District are invited to attend the interviews and complete the survey at the link below:

Survey: [Superintendent Finalist Candidate Feedback](#)

The survey will be open until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Finalist Candidates

Heather Galante, M.Ed., Principal, Bedford High School

Ms. Galante is an equity-focused educational leader with more than 27 years of experience in public education, including nearly a decade as Principal of Bedford High School. In her current role, she provides instructional and operational leadership for a diverse, high-performing high school and contributes to district-wide initiatives commonly associated with assistant superintendent responsibilities. Her leadership has emphasized curriculum coherence, data-informed decision-making, professional learning, and inclusive school culture.

Ms. Galante's career highlights include leading comprehensive curriculum and MTSS redesigns, advancing DEIB-focused professional learning, overseeing a major high school renovation, securing grant funding, and guiding the school through a successful NEASC accreditation process. She brings deep experience building instructional leadership teams, strengthening student support systems, and cultivating strong partnerships with families and community organizations.

Patricia Haynes, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Portsmouth School District

Dr. Haynes is a senior district leader with extensive experience in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and system-level improvement in K–12 settings. She currently serves as Assistant Superintendent in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she acts as the district's instructional leader and regularly presents to the School Board on student achievement, curriculum, safety, and equity-related initiatives. Her responsibilities

include strategic planning, budget development, staff supervision, grant management, and professional learning.

Dr. Haynes has previously served as Director of Teaching and Learning, Principal, Assistant Principal, and classroom teacher. Her work has included district-wide curriculum redesign, implementation of Universal Design for Learning, and the development of systems to support continuous improvement. She holds a Ph.D. in Education and brings experience in governance collaboration, instructional leadership, and data-informed decision-making.

Site Visit and Interview Schedules

The finalists will visit Masconomet on February 9th and 11th, where they will also be interviewed by the School Committee on the following dates and times:

Monday, February 9, 2026 – **Heather Galante, M.Ed.**

2:55 – Meet with District Staff Meeting in the Masconomet High School Library

6:00 - Community Meet and Greet in the Masconomet Large Cafeteria

7:00 – Interview with the School Committee

[Masconomet School Committee 2.9.2026 Agenda](#)

[Live Stream School Committee Interview with Heather Galante](#)

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – **Patricia Haynes, Ph.D.**

2:15 – Meet with District Staff Meeting in the Masconomet High School Library

5:30 - Community Meet and Greet in the Masconomet Small Cafeteria

6:30 – Interview with the School Committee

[Masconomet School Committee 2.11.2026 Agenda](#)

[Live Stream School Committee Interview with Patricia Haynes](#)

Finally, the School Committee owes a great debt of gratitude to the nine members of our Community Advisory Group who supported review of applicants and participated in seven phone screenings and four in-depth interviews. Their work was thoughtful, candid, and thorough during this process. We appreciate your willingness to serve the Masconomet community.