
Candidate 1: Dr. Roger Scott

Interview Date: Monday, November 26, 2012



Education & Experience

Dr. Roger Scott is currently the principal of Huntley Middle School for DeKalb Community Unit School District #428 in DeKalb, Illinois. He holds a doctorate degree in educational leadership from National-Louis University in Chicago, a master's of science degree in health education from Illinois State University in Normal, and a bachelor's of arts degree in natural science and biology from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Dr. Scott earned a general administrative certificate from Illinois State University. He has taught at the secondary level and served as an assistant professor at the University of Chicago and Carthage College. He has also worked as an insurance agent, a dean of students, an assistant principal, and as an assistant superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Dr. Scott grew up in central Illinois.

Statement of Educational Philosophy

"The purpose of education is to assist students with academic preparation, personal, growth, emotional security, and life long learning skills. My role as an administrator will be to share a vision and direction, and have the courage to make necessary changes needed. I will be visible and provide instructional leadership for the organization. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment is the backbone of all school improvement activities. I believe in applying research and best practices on integrating curriculums to help all students achieve at high levels. Recognizing the developmental needs of students and ensuring appropriate instructional methods, having administrators and teachers develop an instructional style that promotes a positive learning environment. Develop with teacher's quality assessments and helping educators to be come clear about what students need to know.

I am committed to being a life-long learner seeking knowledge and skills so that I am always well informed and armed with the necessary knowledge to share with other administrators, teachers, and staff. As the instructional leader, it is my responsibility to share my knowledge with others as part of my contribution to education and to the community."

Schedule to Meet the Community

Dr. Scott's scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2012 is as follows:

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.** Administrators will meet this candidate in the Central Office Computer Lab
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** District #117 faculty and staff will meet in the Central Office Computer Lab
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Public meeting in the Central Office Multi-Purpose Room, 516 Jordan Street

Attendees will be provided the opportunity to provide the Board with input by asking questions relative to educational issues and submitting written comments.

Candidate 2:

Mr. Steve Ptacek



Interview Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Education & Experience

Mr. Steve Ptacek is currently the Superintendent in Joppa-Maple Grove Unit 38 in Joppa, Illinois. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a bachelor's of arts degree in psychology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Mr. Ptacek received his superintendent's endorsement from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Mr. Ptacek has taught physics and chemistry for Seminole County Public Schools in Winter Springs, Florida, and he taught for Cahokia Community Unit School District 187 in Cahokia, Illinois. He has also worked as an assistant principal in Cahokia and has served as a principal at Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois and at Richwoods High School in Peoria, Illinois.

Statement of Educational Philosophy

"The foundation of my educational philosophy was formed during my time as a student at Naval Nuclear Power School. The Navy does an amazing job of teaching a tremendous amount of very challenging material to an extremely diverse population in a relatively short time period. Furthermore, retention is crucial to ensure the safe operation of the many nuclear reactors powering our submarines and aircraft carriers. In 1996, I entered the teaching profession and modeled my classes after the Navy's system. The system worked extremely well in the public school setting. The foundation of the Navy's system is based on establishing clearly defined objectives, developing assessments to measure student mastery, and individualizing extra instruction for students not meeting standards. However, during my first few years of teaching prevailing educational theory was centered on instructional styles. Professional development was not centered on objectives, assessment and data-analysis, but on other areas that required assumptions regarding student learning. Educators "felt" they were doing good work without actually measuring their success. Fortunately, soon after I started teaching Richard Dufour's *Professional Learning Communities at Work* and Grant Wiggins' *Understanding by Design* were published. These books caused a much needed paradigm shift in education. Both authors stress the fundamentals that the military has been using successfully for decades. Even with the current dwindling importance of NCLB, educators must continue to focus on student mastery of objectives. As we go forward, the core standards must drive school improvement. By centering on student learning, we will know when we are truly successful, we will ensure that excellent teachers are not undervalued, and we will truly serve our kids."

Schedule to Meet the Community

Mr. Ptacek's scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2012 is as follows:

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.** Administrators will meet this candidate in the Central Office Computer Lab
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** District #117 faculty and staff will meet in the Central Office Computer Lab
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Public meeting in the Central Office Multi-Purpose Room, 516 Jordan Street

Attendees will be provided the opportunity to provide the Board with input by asking questions relative to educational issues and submitting written comments.
