

*An invitation to apply for the position of*  
*Superintendent*



**Surprise, Arizona**

## *The Position*

The Dysart Unified School District, Surprise, Arizona, Governing Board, is seeking a highly qualified and fully certified Superintendent. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position July 1, 2018.

McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., Executive Recruitment and Development has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the Governing Board in identifying and screening the candidates.

### *The Qualifications*

The candidate must have the background, skills, and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The board recognizes that selecting a superintendent is one of the most important decisions it will make. The board has identified the following desired characteristics:

The successful candidate will:

- Demonstrate a strong academic focus and have an earned doctoral degree.
- Be a passionate advocate for public education on the local, state and national levels.
- Possess strong leadership skills that inspire others to excel.
- Have an understanding of and commitment to Policy Governance.



## *The Community*

The Dysart Unified School District is an exciting, vibrant, and growing community in the Northwest Phoenix Metropolitan area. The district encompasses 140 square miles, serving parts of El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Youngtown, and Maricopa County. It is one of the major employers in the Surprise/El Mirage area with over 2,300 certified teachers, educational support professionals and administrators. It is easily accessible from the I-10 and the Loop 303 freeway, and US Route 60/State Highway 93.

The District serves the City of Surprise, and the City of El Mirage and unincorporated areas of Maricopa County. The City of Surprise has a history that spans 88 years. Founded in 1929, Surprise started out as a one square mile piece of farmland. It was incorporated in 1960 after it was subdivided into parcels for inexpensive homes for agricultural workers. The once irrigated farmlands and orchards of Surprise and El Mirage now consist of affordable homes for over 167,000 residents who wish to live, work and play in their progressive cities.

Surprise is home to Ottawa University's new campus in Arizona, and offers a variety of Bachelor's and Master's programs. Ottawa University is part of the city's Communiiversity project – a partnership of higher education institutions providing students with the opportunity to further their education. In addition to Ottawa University, higher education institutions participating in Communiiversity Surprise include Northern Arizona University (NAU), Rio Salado College and College of St. Scholastica.

The district is surrounded by a number of great communities, including Glendale, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand that make this a great area to raise a family or retire in comfort. Luke Air Force Base, the world's largest fighter pilot base, employs approximately 8,000 active military personnel and civilian employees.

Living in the beautiful Dysart Unified School District, gives residents of our community many wonderful things to do. Surprise is home to a state-of-the-art spring training facility, which is located just across the street from our district office. The facility is home to Major League Baseball teams Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers. Surprise is just a short drive to the White Tank Mountains, Wildlife World Zoo, the recreational opportunities at Lake Pleasant, and a two-hour drive to Flagstaff for skiing.

Nearby sporting complexes host NBA, NHL, NFL and MLB action for the Phoenix Suns basketball team, the Arizona Coyotes hockey team, the Arizona Cardinals football team, and Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team in addition to numerous concerts and community events. The metropolitan Phoenix area offers all the amenities of one of America's largest cities, including museums, culture, Arizona State University and the stunning beauty of the American Southwest. Our year-round warm weather allows residents of our community the opportunity to take part in recreational activities such as golf, cycling, tennis and hiking at any time of the year.

## The District

In the last year that the state of Arizona labeled districts, the Dysart Unified School District was an “A” rated district. The district is comprised of 19 elementary, four comprehensive high schools, an online school and one alternative program. Dysart enrolls approximately 15,500 students in grades K-8, over 300 preschool children and 8,600 high school students. Its staff includes 1,290 certified teachers, 960 education support professionals and 85 administrators.

The district is dedicated to serving the needs of each student by providing high quality academic coursework, gifted and special education services, career and technical education opportunities, college dual enrollment, before-and after-school programs, and extracurricular activities at both the elementary and high school levels.



Dysart is committed to provide a personalized learning environment that ensures every student graduates future ready. The goal is for students to become self-directed expert learners who monitor their progress, take control of their learning, and reflect on that learning based on mastery of content, skills and competencies. Learning can take place anywhere and anytime. The district provides access to resources including digital content, plus enhanced learning opportunities for student growth, and opportunities for collaboration at school and through online options tailored to meet student needs. Tools and resources are aligned to desired learning outcomes and student interests and may include makerspaces, project-based learning, 1:1 technology or other appropriate means.

With an operating budget of \$170 million, the district is focused on raising the relevance and rigor of education. Ensuring students are equipped with the skills necessary to meet the challenges and opportunities in a 21st Century global society are at the heart of the mission and vision. The goal is to graduate all students ready for college, career and a productive life in this new century. Dysart is dedicated to going beyond providing preschool through grade 12 students with just the educational basics. To accomplish this, the district works collaboratively with all stakeholders and actively involve parents and community members as partners.



## Governing Board

The Governing Board consists of five members who are elected to serve four-year terms. The incumbency of the Board members range from newly elected to eight years.

Name	Occupation	Years Served
Mrs. Jennifer Tanner, President	Marketing Coordinator	8 years
Mrs. Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil, Clerk	Human Resources	6 years
Dr. Spencer Bailey	Orthodontist	2 years
Mr. Jay Leonard	Managing Partner	Newly elected
Mrs. Christine Pritchard	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	7 years

*The mission of Dysart Unified School District is to create a safe, diversified and engaging learning environment where every student attains academic excellence and is empowered to achieve life-long success. Through relevant and challenging curriculum, expanded learning opportunities and collaborative partnerships, our students will be:*

- *effective communicators*
- *critical and creative thinkers*
- *informed problem solvers and decision makers*
- *responsible leaders*
- *productive citizens*

***Find out more about Dysart Unified School District:***

*<http://www.dysart.org>*

## **APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Available at [www.macnjake.com](http://www.macnjake.com)



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### *Selection Timeline*

1. Application deadline:  
October 26, 2017
2. Finalists selected by  
Governing Board:  
November 15, 2017
3. Interviews with  
Governing Board:  
Starting December 4, 2017
4. Selection of new  
superintendent:  
December 13, 2017
5. Starting date:  
on or before July 1, 2018

### ***An application for superintendent should include:***

- A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position
- A current résumé
- A completed application form
- Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s)

*Candidates are asked to not contact board members directly. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws.*

**Dysart Unified School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**