

*An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Superintendent*

Soap Lake School District #156



Soap Lake, Washington

The Position

The Soap Lake School District #156, Soap Lake, Washington, Board of Directors, is seeking a 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 Board of Directors 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:

- A caring, personable, passionate and self-confident educational leader who possesses exemplary interpersonal skills and has demonstrated the ability to make positive connections with all students, school staff and the community.
- A collaborative leader and team player who motivates and inspires others to perform at their very best and one who is also accessible and approachable to others.
- A professional educator who understands the elements of effective school systems and sound school finance and has the skills and confidence to affect change when appropriate.
- Demonstrate a willingness and desire to be visible in the schools, attend school events and be a contributor to the community of Soap Lake.
- Possesses strong organizational and decision-making skills with the ability to make decisions based upon input, analysis and what is best for students.

The Community

The city of Soap Lake is centrally located in the state of Washington, 120 miles from Spokane, and 180 miles from Seattle, at the gateway to the Coulee Corridor. The Corridor ultimately leads to the eighth wonder of the world, Grand Coulee Dam. The population of Soap Lake is 1,571, which grows in the tourist season due to the healing mineral waters of the two-mile long lake. Native Americans first used the healing waters and mineral-rich mud to treat ailments. Later, in the early 1900's, sanitariums and cottages helped to fuel growth of the little town.

Area recreational activities include camping, boating and fishing at Steamboat Rock and Sun Lakes State Park to the north and Potholes to the south. Just outside the city limits is Lakeview Golf Course and Country Club. Community festivals include Hydro Races and Music, Art and Wine Festival, and Powwow in June, Smokiam Days in July, Moonlight Paddle in August, and Winterfest in December. The Masquer's Theater provides a venue of local talent and has productions five times a year to enjoy. The local Soap Lake MS/HS has sports during the school year and the community is encouraged to attend!

Currently, major employers in the area are the Soap Lake School District, five miles away, in Ephrata are Grant County PUD, Columbia Basin Hospital, Ephrata School District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, D.O.T., Grant County Public Works and the Grant County Court House. Moses Lake, 23 miles away offers a variety of employment such as REC Silicon, Moses Lake Industries, Genie Industries, SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers, International Paper, as well as being a major food processing and agricultural hub. Medical facilities in the area include Columbia Basin Hospital (Ephrata), Samaritan Hospital (Moses Lake) and Central Washington Hospital (Wenatchee). The closest college is Big Bend Community College, in Moses Lake and offers programs including nursing, pilot, electrical, and welding.

The District

The Soap Lake School District serves 490 students in grades K-12. There are 36 teachers/certified, 43 classified and three administrative staff. There are three schools housed in two buildings. The two buildings share a main parking lot. Most buildings are on the main campus. The buses and bus garage are removed from this property, but close.

Schools in the district:

The Soap Lake Middle/High School (6-12) 261.65 FTE and Smokiam Alternative (9-12) 26.20 FTE are housed in a building which was extensively remodeled in 2000 on the north end of the campus. The east side of the building houses the middle school classrooms and the west side houses high school classes, with a library that serves Smokiam Alternative, and a large gym. There are a softball field, a baseball field, and a football field, with new bleachers and retaining wall installed in Fall 2017.

Middle/High courses include all content areas as well as physical education, music, art, and CTE courses in agriculture, American Sign Language, business and computer (Microsoft). After school and in school programs, 21st Century, Gear Up and AVID, operate within the schools. Activities also include Highly Capable, FFA, extra-curricular (basketball, football, track, volleyball and baseball) and several clubs. Agreements have been made with the Columbia Basin Technical Skills Center, and junior and senior students are able to take advantage of the course offerings there, as well as the Running Start program

at Big Bend Community College of Moses Lake.

Smokiam Alternative operates with flexible scheduling for students who need it, and provides access to credit recovery and online courses as well as regular high school courses.

Soap Lake Elementary building (Pre-K-5th) 199 FTE was built in 2000 on the south end of the campus and contains a gym, music room, maintenance office, technology room, and two Special Education rooms and houses the District Office. The building has AVID and 21st Century programs as well as having extended day services for identified students.

Assessed property valuation is \$189,540,356 and the operating budget is \$7,600,000.



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of five members who are elected to serve four-year terms. The incumbency of the members range from newly elected to 15 years.

Name	Years Served
Signe Knudsen	6 years
Curt Dotson	15 years
Nicole Frazier	Newly appointed
Renee Detrick	Newly elected
Donald Clark	Newly appointed



MISSION STATEMENT

Skills build success



Find out more about Soap Lake School District #156:

<http://www.slschools.org>

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE

Available at www.macnjake.com



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Selection Timeline

1. Application deadline:
February 22, 2018
2. Finalists selected by
Board of Directors:
March 19, 2018
3. Interviews with Board of
Directors:
April 9-13, 2018
4. Selection of new
superintendent:
April 17, 2018
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.

Soap Lake School District #156 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.