

**Lawton Community Schools  
Michigan Leadership Institute  
News Release  
March 20, 2021**

The Lawton Community Schools Board of Education interviewed the final three candidates on Saturday. Greg Blomgren, High School Principal in St. Joseph; Andy Fuehr, Elementary Principal in Portage; and Benjamin Bandfield, High School Principal in Hamilton were interviewed. Each candidate presented a 90-Day Entry Plan for the school district. Board members asked a series of questions during and after the presentation.

After deliberations the board unanimously agree to hire Benjamin Bandfield as its next superintendent, contingent upon successful contract negotiations.

Mr. Benjamin Bandfield is expected to begin duties on July 1. Mr. Bandfield is currently serving the Hamilton Public Schools as high school principal since 2014. He has also served the Grosse Pointe Public Schools as high school principal and athletic director for three years. Mr. Bandfield previously served the Lawton Community Schools as athletic director and teacher for four years. He also has taught at Portland Public Schools, Portland St. Patrick School and Hartsville Schools in South Carolina.

Wally Hitchcock, Board President, stated, "We had three outstanding candidates. All of them have the ability to lead our school district. I'm sure all of them will become successful superintendents at some point in their career. It was a difficult decision, but we believe Mr. Bandfield will be a great addition to our schools and community. Mr. Bandfield's calm, stable leadership; his focus on collaboration and continuous improvement; and his passion for kids and for Lawton will serve the district well. He will help take our school district to the next level while respecting our community values. As a board, we look forward to working with him."

The position has become available as Chris Rice, after serving the district admirably as a teacher, building principal and superintendent, announced his retirement at the end of the current school year.

Michigan Leadership Institute facilitated the superintendent search with the Board of Education.