

CANDIDATE

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Ham. However, Lively said that Ham will be retiring as of June 30, meaning the new hire will get the title of assistant superintendent instead.

Lively said the job will be posted on the Kentucky Educator Placement Service website for 15 days. After that, the interview process will begin, with the district hopefully having someone in place to be trained by Ham before he retires, Lively said.

The title of assistant superintendent may be new for the district, but Lively said "I think it's important to have here. The assistant superintendent will be very helpful and very impactful. I think that they will take on a lot of the roles like transportation and chief operations officer, and work side-

by-side with me and at the Board of Education's direction."

Lively said that the district is looking for someone with proven leadership abilities, sound decision making, and a love of doing the right thing for the students.

"I think communication skills will be crucial in that role as well, and the ability to work with all stakeholders," Lively said.

The candidate must also hold a superintendents certification, he said.

As for Ham, Lively gave a glowing review of his time working for the district.

Lively listed several of the roles Ham has held in his career at Somerset Independent, including assistant principal at Somerset High School, assistant principal and interim principal at Hopkins Elementary, and his current role, which includes overseeing the district's transportation department.

"He's just been a huge part of this district for a long time," Lively said. "... He's leaving some big shoes to fill, and I don't think it's possible to fill those shoes. I hope whoever comes into this role has very similar attributes as Mr. Ham, like his professionalism, his heart for kids, his judgement, his communication skills and his ability to problem solve and take care of things. Nobody sees the problems because he's taken care of them."

Lively added, "He's earned his retirement, but I really hate to see him go. We're really thankful for all he's done, not only in his role as support to my role, but also all that he's done for this district in every role he's ever had. He's a graduate of Somerset, his heart's here, his own children went through here. He's a fantastic man and he'll be deeply missed as an educator here in the district."



CARLA SLAVEY | CJ

Somerset Independent Superintendent Kyle Lively, left, and Board of Education Chair Scott Gullock, right, are seen at this week's Board of Education meeting. The board approved the creation of a new assistant superintendent position.



CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

Superintendent Patrick Richardson and board chair Cindy Price react during the March meeting of the Pulaski County School Board held Tuesday.

BUILDING

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and the City of Burnside fell apart at the latter's March city council meeting. While the district was willing to lease the facility to the city at a cost of virtually nothing, in order to utilize it, the city would still have to bear the costs of extensive repairs and maintenance, and potentially insurance — costs that ultimately proved to be prohibitive for Burnside officials, who voted not to follow through with the 10-year deal.

Additionally, Burnside councilors did not like certain terms of the deal, including continued access rights by the school system and an inability of the city to sublease the building.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Pulaski County School Board, Superintendent Pat Richardson filled board members in on the breakdown of the agreement and the next steps moving forward.

"We were trying to work with the City of Burnside," said Richardson. "They just don't have the revenue to support a facility like that. We tried every way in the world to make it work for them, we just couldn't."

Richardson said the process for disposing of school property has changed since the last time the district had to do so —

specifically, the necessity of a BG-1 (Buildings and Grounds) document to be submitted to the state, as well as memos to approve the property in question for disposal by the board and to give the superintendent the authorization to follow through with a sale. The BG-1 was not required in the past.

"We can dispose of property in three ways," said Richardson. "First of all, we have to have an appraisal, and I've already talked to someone about getting us an appraisal. If we were to get an offer that exceeded the appraisal amount, then we could entertain that purchase from that person if we so choose. The second way is sealed bids, and then the third way is a public auction."

"My thinking is ... that

if we start off maybe doing a sealed bid (and) see what kind of bid we get, we can always say that we can reject any and all bids and then if we don't get we want through the sealed bid process, then we go to the public auction and see what we get from there," he added.

At the start of the current school year, Burnside Elementary moved into a new school building located off of Ky. 1247, on the north side of the Cumberland River Bridge, leaving vacant the previous facility, which was built in the 1950s with additions made over the years.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, local firm Deco Architects, Inc., was approved to work on the design of a renovation project for the Southwestern High School

football field house and the addition of a concession stand and locker room for the school's tennis program.

The March meeting also saw the latest presentation of PRISM (Pulaski Recognizes Innovative Staff Members) awards given to

employees at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels who have been determined to stand out in their service to the district.

They included Shopville Elementary kindergarten teacher Christina Ross (presented by Shopville

principal Michael Childers), Northern Middle eighth grade Social Studies teacher Ashley McMullin (presented by principal Josh Robinson), and Pulaski County High School guidance secretary Tammy McKee (presented by principal Julie Hoff).

Spring Tea Party at Mount Pleasant!



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