

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cambridge Announces Dr. Kenneth Salim as New Superintendent of Schools

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December 16, 2015

Cambridge, MA – Last evening, Mayor David Maher and the Cambridge School Committee signed a four year contract with the incoming Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kenneth Salim. The contract includes a \$228,000 base salary, and for the first time stipulates that annual salary increases will also include a merit based component. Dr. Salim will succeed Dr. Jeffrey Young, who has been Superintendent since 2009, and will take the helm on July 1st, 2016. Dr. Salim is the current Superintendent in Weymouth, MA public schools.

“We are so pleased that Dr. Salim will be joining us in Cambridge. I know he will be an incredible asset to our school community and help us move forward as a district,” said Mayor Maher. “I am particularly proud of the rigorous public process that we engaged in to determine that the experience and work of Dr. Salim is the right fit at the right time for our district. We all know that a Superintendent’s job is never easy, but our community expects that Dr. Salim can competently face the challenge given his uncompromising vision for excellence.”

Dr. Salim was selected from three finalists that were chosen from among a nationally generated candidate pool following screening and interviews conducted by a nineteen member Superintendent Search Interview Committee (SSIC). The SSIC, which was convened last August, held over 50 community meetings and focus group meetings.

“I am thrilled to join the Cambridge Public Schools and look forward to serving the School Committee, students, families and staff. I am eager to engage the entire community, to build on the district’s successes through a collaborative effort, and to lead with students as our highest priority,” said Dr. Salim.

School Committee representatives Fred Fantini, Richard Harding and Patty Nolan joined the SSIC which was comprised of a diverse cross-section of Cambridge Public Schools stakeholders inclusive of educational, parent/guardian, union, administrative, city, business, non-profit, diversity, and higher education representatives.

“I am looking forward to working with Dr. Salim to ensure a smooth transition,” said Jeff Young. “With Cambridge’s excellent team of teachers, staff and educational leaders and the district’s recent achievement of Level 2 status under the state’s accountability system, I am confident that Dr. Salim will find all Cambridge schools poised for continued success.”

The search for the new Superintendent of Schools began in July of this year, and the Cambridge School Committee was assisted in the search by Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA), a nationwide search firm who has conducted several local Superintendent searches including Boston, Somerville and Lexington.

The other finalists were Dr. Stacy Scott, current Superintendent of schools in Framingham, MA and Dr. Sergio Paez, former Superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools.

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