

4/21/2026

Dear Members of the NASD Superintendent Search Committee,

There are a few times in one's career when you feel you are on the precipice of an extraordinary opportunity to do something meaningful, not for yourself, but for others. For me, this is one of those moments, both professionally and personally. I am writing to express my interest in serving as the Interim Superintendent of Schools for the 2026–2027 school year in the Newfound Area School District.

For the past ten years, I have served as the building principal of the Jennie D. Blake School in Hill, and for the last six years, I have held the dual role of Superintendent/Principal. In that time, I have led a small, single-school district with a focus on strong relationships, sound fiscal management, and continuous improvement in teaching and learning. This dual role has required me to maintain both a district-wide perspective and a building-level understanding, balancing strategic priorities with the day-to-day realities of school operations.

Our districts have a long-standing and meaningful partnership. Since the initial tuition agreement in 2015, we have worked collaboratively to strengthen opportunities for students, culminating in a 13-year agreement that ensures any child who begins Kindergarten in Hill has the opportunity to graduate as a proud Newfound Bear. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to student success and has provided me with a deep understanding of the district, its schools, and its communities.

After reviewing the district's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, I am particularly aligned with its emphasis on expanding academic and enrichment opportunities, strengthening partnerships with families and the community, supporting student wellness, and ensuring safe, sustainable, and future-ready systems. These priorities closely mirror the work I have led in Hill.

Throughout my tenure, I have strengthened curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices through the use of data to support all learners, while also supporting professional development, thoughtful scheduling, and staffing decisions to enhance intervention systems and student outcomes. I strongly value the district's commitment to clear and transparent communication, and I have consistently worked to build trust with families and community members through open, consistent, and collaborative engagement.

I also recognize that the district is entering an important period of long-range facilities planning and school consolidation. As recent discussions have highlighted, these decisions involve balancing aging infrastructure, financial sustainability, and the long-term needs of the district, with potential proposals moving toward the 2027 town meeting process. Work of this nature is complex and often deeply personal for communities. My approach is to ensure that stakeholders are meaningfully engaged throughout the process, clearly communicating the rationale behind decisions, presenting options transparently, and creating space for community voice. Lasting solutions are built not only through sound planning, but through trust, relationships, and a shared commitment to what is best for students.

Additionally, I appreciate the district's focus on student wellness and the development of safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environments. Supporting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students, while strengthening systems such as positive behavior supports and coordinated wellness programming has been and will continue to be a priority in my leadership.

From a systems perspective, I bring experience in overseeing financial operations, managing grants, and making strategic decisions that align resources with student needs. I have also had the unique opportunity to help build and refine district-level systems and operations, developing processes that support efficiency, compliance, and long-term sustainability.

It has been widely known in my district that as I look toward the final chapter of my career, there are only two places I would consider continuing my work: Hill, where I began and grew as a leader, and Newfound. I would welcome the opportunity to build on the strong foundation already in place and help support the district in continuing to move forward.

The Newfound Area School District's mission to provide a supportive environment that fosters positive relationships and delivers an innovative and personalized educational experience, along with its vision of empowering learners to become independent, responsible, and engaged global citizens, reflects the core values that have guided my work throughout my career.

As an interim superintendent, I understand the importance of providing stability, maintaining momentum on key initiatives, and supporting the School Board with thoughtful, steady leadership during a time of transition. This past decade has prepared me well for the challenges and opportunities ahead, and I would be honored to serve the Newfound community in this role.

While I fully appreciate the intent and responsibility of an interim appointment, I would also welcome the opportunity, should it align with the Board's future direction, to continue serving the district beyond that term. My interest in Newfound is not temporary, but rooted in a long-standing professional connection and a genuine commitment to the students, staff, and communities it serves.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to speak further about how I can support the district during the 2026–2027 school year, and beyond.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brian Connelly
Superintendent/Principal
Jennie D. Blake School
SAU 103-Hill School District