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For Immediate Release

Paul K. Smith Appointed East Hampton Schools Superintendent

EAST HAMPTON – On Thursday, October 29, 2015, the Board of Education formally selected Paul K. Smith as East Hampton Public Schools' Superintendent.

Smith, an educator for more than thirty years, has served as the Superintendent of Schools in Griswold since 2012. He also served as Bolton's Superintendent of Schools from 2009 to 2012.

Smith, a Massachusetts native, first taught in Bedford, Mass., as director of bands for the high school and middle school there. He then moved on to Killingly High School in Danielson to serve as music department coordinator and director of bands.

Smith then served as that high school's assistant principal for four years before serving as Bolton High School's principal from 2002-2009. He was then asked to become Bolton's Superintendent when the Superintendent retired in 2009.

Under Smith's leadership, Bolton High School was recognized as one of the country's best high schools by both *U.S. News & World Report* and *Newsweek*.

Board of Education chair Ken Barber called Smith "a beloved and highly effective leader and educator."

"The East Hampton Board of Education is delighted to announce his selection and we feel very fortunate to invite Mr. Smith to serve as the next superintendent of schools in East Hampton," Barber said. "Please join us in welcoming him."

Smith's selection comes after a comprehensive district-wide survey from August to September of more than 260 people both in person and online, including students, teachers, administrators, Central Office staff, parents, town officials and community members.

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Mary Broderick, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Search Services consultant, conducted the focus group interviews, designed to help define the qualities of an ideal superintendent for East Hampton, Barber said.

Barber said Smith's "leadership qualities and humanity are beautifully aligned with the characteristics identified as most important in the East Hampton Leadership Profile."

"Paul is an inspiring, approachable, fair, collaborative leader with the ability to engage and work with everyone in a manner exemplified by honesty and integrity," he said. "Though several of the candidates the Board interviewed were well-qualified and could have provided strong leadership for the district, Paul Smith impressed the Board as an exceptional fit, and he was selected unanimously."

Consisting of the members of the Board of Education, one teacher and one administrator, the committee interviewed six candidates to see whether they fit the profile of qualities gathered from peoples' input in a process involving "two rounds of interviews and extensive reference checks," Barber said.

Then, the committee sent two board members and a teacher representative to Griswold on October 22 to meet with members of that town's Board of Education, select board, community leaders, parents, teachers and administrators.

"They all provided universally glowing testimonials of Paul, saying he brought tremendous positive spirit and served as a unifying force," Barber said. "Each spoke of Paul's gift in communicating with all constituencies in their community, building relationships, making presentations and writing weekly messages on the state of education and the schools. He has built very strong collaborative relationships both in the schools and throughout the town."

Smith will officially begin on January 1, 2016. Barber said the Board of Education will host a reception in the near future to allow students, staff, parents and all members of the community a chance to meet him.

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