

DR. JAMES F. HABEL

#17 James F. Habel

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SCHOOL BOARD
OFFICE

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June 26, 2008

Pinellas County School Board
301 Fourth Street SW
P.O. Box 2942
Largo, Florida 33779-2942

Dear Search Committee Members:

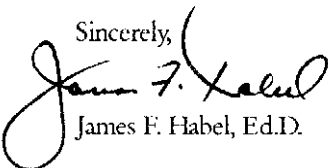
While perusing a recent issue of the *St. Petersburg Times*, I read of the search you are conducting for the position of Pinellas County Superintendent of Schools. I am writing to inform you of my great interest in obtaining the position. I have been a part-time resident of Pinellas County since 1987 and recently built a new home in Dunedin. As a concerned resident and an educator, I have kept abreast of the educational initiatives and issues in the Pinellas County School District. In addition, this past March, my wife, Eileen, accepted a position as Vice President of Web and Data Services with Bealls in their Bradenton corporate office and has relocated to our home in Dunedin. Therefore, although I am an out-of-state candidate, I have a vested, long-term commitment to Pinellas County and the future of our educational system.

I have 16 years of administrative experience, including serving more than five years as superintendent of the Wall Township School District. The Wall Township School District is a comprehensive, high performing K-12 school district that consistently ranks among the very best in New Jersey. I am confident that I offer a diverse background and a unique combination of experience and skills as a public school administrator, teacher, and coach. The completion of my doctoral degree in 1998, in conjunction with past successes as a central office administrator, building principal, teacher, coach, and president of an all-inclusive education association are distinguishing qualifications for candidacy. My extensive graduate school studies in combination with my certificates and career experience in administration, student personnel services and school business administration, have given me a breadth and depth of insight into the educational needs of students, schools, districts, and communities.

These leadership experiences have enabled me to hone varied skills and further develop levels of expertise, which have proven to be unique and extremely beneficial throughout my administrative career. My skill set includes the ability to "think outside the box" in creating innovative solutions to problems and, more importantly, the demonstrated ability to lead collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to successfully implement those solutions. I have successfully designed and implemented researched-based and educationally sound programs to fit the culture and setting that I was working in at the time. In addition, my experiences with contract language interpretation, negotiations, grievance resolution, interpersonal skills, written and oral communication skills and the coordination of school, media, membership, and community have proven very valuable.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the search committee and discuss the specific details of my background and qualifications for becoming the educational leader of the Pinellas County School District. All references, professional and personal, will be furnished upon request.

Sincerely,



James F. Habel, Ed.D.

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DR. JAMES F. HABEL

EDUCATION

- 1998 Nova Southeastern University
Ed.D., Educational Leadership Doctoral Program
- 1990 Georgian Court College
School Business Administrator
Student Personnel Certification
- 1989 Jersey City State College
MA Education Administration and Supervision
- 1978 State University of New York at Brockport
BS Elementary Education (K-8, Science concentration)
Health Science (K-12)
Physical Education (K-12)
Division III All-American Wrestler

CERTIFICATES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chief School Administrator | School Business Administrator |
| Principal/Supervisor | Student Personnel Services (Guidance) |
| K-8 Elementary Education | Health Science (K-12) |
| | Physical Education (K-12) |

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

March 2003-Present Wall Township School District Wall Township, NJ
Superintendent

All duties and responsibilities associated with operating a highly competitive, comprehensive K-12 school district comprised of eight schools and 4,500 students

- Serve as Monmouth County State Delegate
- Currently serve as Monmouth County Superintendents Council Treasurer
- Serve on Board of Directors for Monmouth-Ocean County Educational Services Commission
- Serve as Chief Negotiator for Board of Education in negotiations with four unions (administrators, teachers, support staff, technology)
- Implemented curricular and targeted program changes that have resulted in raised district test scores (K-12)
- Professional Development plan implemented for all professional and support staff
- Multiple educational strategies and programs implemented
- AFG protocol for strategic planning (Middle States Accreditation for all schools)
- Responsible for attracting and negotiating venture capital agreement to build state-of-the-art athletic facilities at no cost to district
- Developed and presented conceptual plan for referendum to build an Early Learning Center and High School additions
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and procedures

December 2004-October 2005 Wall Township School District Wall Township, NJ
Acting Business Administrator

All duties associated with operation of the business office and a 62 million dollar budget

- Led transition from 28-year tenured BA/BS (dual control to unit control)
- Utilized a zero-based budget for the first time resulting in significant savings
- Implemented "centralized printing" as cost savings measure

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- Revamped business operations of former BA (36 recommendations for corrective actions)

July 1997-March 2003 Wall Township High School

Wall Township, NJ

Principal

All duties associated with running a competitive, comprehensive high school

- Staffing, budget, curriculum mapping, and daily operation of comprehensive high school with student population of 1,400 students and 149 staff members
- Trained and experienced as AFG Chair for Middle States evaluations of schools and districts
- Designed and implemented new weighted grade system, GPA and class rank computations
- Increased Advanced Placement offerings from four (4) courses to 16 courses
- Developed proposal for hybrid schedule: Rotating 8 period day
- Managed 21-million dollar building referendum-writing educational specifications, visitations, design, attendance at job meetings, development and implementation of phasing schedule, change orders, monitoring day-to-day building project
- Implemented pilot program for integrated-thematic instruction in history and English
- Implemented extensive student recognition "Renaissance" program
- Chaired district committee for new summative and formative evaluation tools
- Implemented numerous staff development and training programs
- Implemented program for extended day using flex scheduling- "0 and 10th period" in 9-period day
- Developed emergency response/school safety plan-coordinated staff training, student assemblies with full simulation in collaboration with Wall Township police, fire, and emergency response departments
- Designed and implemented new school profile
- Implemented intergenerational programs for community senior citizens and high school students
- Developed successful proposals for school psychologist and school safety officer

1995-1997 Middletown North High School

Middletown, NJ

Assistant Principal

- Development and monitoring of school budget
- Implementation of in-school suspension program
- Chairperson for Middle States Steering Committee
- Supervisor of Fine Arts and Special Education Departments
- Automation of student locker system
- Coordinate graduation ceremony at PNC Art Center
- Supervision, scheduling, and hiring of security personnel

1992-1995 Bordentown Regional High School

Bordentown, NJ

Assistant Principal

- District committee member for:
 - Restructuring task force
 - Block scheduling implementation
 - Multicultural, technology, and staff development
- Implemented "Positive Addiction" program (student of month, perfect attendance)
- Created and implemented credit completion program (attendance policy)

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

1986-1992 Lacey Township High School

Lanoka Harbor, NJ

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President of 550 member all- inclusive education association (NJEA affiliate)

1985-1986	Point Pleasant Beach High School	Point Pleasant, NJ
1981-1985	Glen Ridge High School	Glen Ridge, NJ
1979-1981	Tappan Zee Elementary School	Orangeburg, NY

COACHING EXPERIENCE: HEAD WRESTLING COACHING RECORD 127-51-1

1986-1992	Lacey Township High School <i>Head Wrestling and Assistant Football Coach</i>	Lanoka Harbor, NJ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 1989, 1987 B South Champions with 4 state place winners (Wrestling)■ 1989, 1988 Offensive Coordinator for State Championship football team■ 1989, 1988 Assistant Coach for Ocean/Monmouth all-star football games	
1985-1986	Point Pleasant Beach High School <i>Head Football and Head Wrestling Coach</i>	Point Pleasant, NJ
1981-1985	Glen Ridge High School <i>Head Wrestling and Football Defensive Coordinator</i>	Glen Ridge, NJ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 1984, 1983, 1982 Conference Champions (Wrestling)■ 1984, 1983 Group I Sectional semi-finalist, finalist (Wrestling)■ 1983, 1981 State Football Champions	
1979-1981	Tappan Zee High School <i>Head Wrestling and Assistant Football Coach</i>	Orangeburg, NY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 1981, 1980 Conference Champions■ 1980 Coach of the Year: Rockland Journal News■ 1980 Team ranked # 10 in N.Y.S., 2 state place winners	
1978-1979	State University of New York at Brockport, <i>Assistant Wrestling Coach</i>	Brockport, NY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Team finished 2nd in Division III National Tournament, conference champions	

COMMUNITY

WALL ROTARY
WALL KIWANIS
RELAY FOR LIFE
WALL FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

N.J.P.S.A.
A.S.C.D.
A.A.S.A.
N.J.A.S.A.
N.A.S.S.P.

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PRESENTATIONS

I have delivered numerous presentations both in and outside of the district on topics ranging from budgets, referendum plans, curricular changes and test scores. Some of my recent presentations outside the district include:

District Presentations:

Annual Budget Presentations, 2003-2008

Annual Report on Academic Status, 2003-2008

District Strategic Planning Using the AFG Model, 2006

Using Hybrid Schedules for Increased Academic time in a Comprehensive High School, 2007

Wall Township Referendum Plan, 2004

Conceptual Plan for the future of Wall Township Public Schools, 2008

Collective Bargaining: Monmouth County Superintendents Council Meeting Professional Development Series, 2006

Win/ Win negotiations

Collective Bargaining in New Jersey- Mediation, Fact-Finding, Super-conciliation

Past practice- What constitutes Past Practice

Grievance Procedures and Contract interpretation

Board and Superintendent Relationships, NJASA Fall Conference 2006

Parents as Partners, NJASA Spring Conference 2006

Leadership Academy: Traits and characteristics of a Transformational Leader, Princeton University 2006

The Impact of NCLB in New Jersey, Guest Speaker: Rutgers University, 2006

Differentiating Instruction, Monmouth County Superintendents Professional Development, 2007

Integrating Service learning into schools, NJASA Spring Conference, 2007