The Pittsburgh Board of Public Education on Thursday announced that it has officially begun the process to find a new permanent superintendent for the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

A request for proposals was issued to a select group of search firms who have until March 9, 2022, at 5 p.m. to submit their proposals in order to be considered to help lead the national search. The board said that it plans to approve the contract for the search firm that is selected at its meeting on March 23, 2022.

“The decision to conduct a national search provides the opportunity for us — as a school community — to determine the ideal type of leadership we need to guide our District into the future,” Sala Udin, the president of the board, said. “The goal is to have the permanent superintendent in place by the start of the 2022-2023 academic year.”

The group of search firms that are able to submit RFPs was selected and recommended to the board by The Council of Great City Schools, which is a coalition of 75 of the largest urban public school systems in the U.S.

The process of selecting a new superintendent will also require input from the public, Udin said. The board said that it plans to provide details on a community input process once a search firm is selected and confirmed, but that public input will be important to determine the traits necessary for a new superintendent that will best serve PPS students, employees and the greater community. However, the board clarified that while it will strive for transparency throughout the process, certain information, such as the eventual candidate pool, must be kept confidential until the final selection is announced.

The board itself will serve as the search committee that makes the ultimate decision in appointing a new superintendent.

Currently, Dr. Wayne N. Walters is serving as interim superintendent, taking over after the resignation of previous superintendent, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, in September 2021. Per Walters’ contract, he will serve in the interim role until September 30, 2022, or until a permanent superintendent is selected.