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## Dallas ISD trustees could select a superintendent on Monday

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In an unexpected move, Dallas school trustees have called a meeting for Monday to possibly select a finalist for superintendent.

Trustees had planned to select a finalist on Wednesday. The date would have given them time to conduct site visits on Monday and Tuesday in cities of select candidates, according to a hiring timeline outlined early this month.

In case a selection isn't made on Monday, trustees have also called a meeting for Wednesday to possibly select a candidate that day.

Trustees would not comment on the superintendent finalists or the Monday meeting. But some observers wonder whether they are split between two top candidates, thus the need for two meetings.

The feeling is that the candidate being considered on Monday could be familiar to the board as trustees haven't left room for a site visit. Interim Superintendent Alan King's name has surfaced as a possible finalist.

King came to DISD in January 2011 as chief financial officer. He was named interim superintendent in June after Michael Hinojosa announced he was leaving to take a job in the Cobb County School District near Atlanta.

King is commended by people inside and outside DISD for his honest approach to tackling district matters. But some wonder if his quiet demeanor might keep him from the schmoozing and politicking that typically come with being leader of a big-city school district.

Michael MacNaughton, chair of the watchdog group Dallas Friends of Public Education, supports King and listed his attributes Friday.

"If there are two superintendent finalists and interim Superintendent Alan King is one of them, I hope the trustees remember that proven honesty and integrity weighs more heavily than promises and that DISD needs a strong team rather than a lone ranger," he said.

<u>Paul Quinn College</u> President Michael Sorrell's name has also come up as a possible finalist, but people close to the search have discounted that notion.

The Monday and Wednesday meetings will begin at 4 p.m. at DISD headquarters, 3700 Ross Ave. Trustees will begin the meetings in open session with a possible discussion on the superintendent search process. They will then adjourn to closed session to deliberate. Any vote on a finalist will be conducted in open session.