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Respect as flags are retired

A VFW Post 58 Commander and Bill Firth, District 7 Commander, look on as Vice Commander David Schrott and Adjutant Woodbury Fogg cut the stars from an American flag prior to the flag retirement ceremony. The individual stars will be given to men and women of the armed forces leaving or arriving home from Pease International Airport by Pease Greeters. (Karen Bobotas/for the Laconia Daily Sun)

Evelyn Firth and Bill Firth, Commander and Auxiliary District 7; Bob Stevens, Post 58 Commander; Rich Stanley, Vice Commander David Schrott; and Martha Bracy offer a prayer during the VFW Post 58 flag retirement ceremony at Belmont’s covered bridge Saturday afternoon. (Karen Bobotas/for the Laconia Daily Sun)

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nel Committee of the School Board. According to Persson, McCollum informed the high school staff and school board members last Thursday before leaving for a planned vacation in Florida. He said that in McCollum’s letter of resignation he referred to the opportunities to manage a larger school and earn a higher salary as the major factors in his decision. In 2016, 977 students were enrolled at Rundlett Middle School. The terms of McCollum’s contract have not been disclosed.

After the 2017 school year in Laconia, McCollum had planned to move to Florida, where he intended to continue his career as a school administrator. It is not clear if that is still his intent.

Persson described the timing of McCollum’s resignation as “unfortunate,” explaining that he will not be on hand to manage the transition to a new administrative team at the high school. Moreover, Steve Tucker, the academic coordinator for teaching and learning at the high school, is also leaving to take a position at Gilford High School next year. “We’re losing two key members of the administration team at once.”

Interim School Superintendent Phil McCormack said that McCollum’s decision was “so sudden and not planned and that in and of itself is problematic.” He anticipated that the School Board will appoint an interim principal for the next school year, but added “it is premature to say much about that in this time.”

McCollum served the Laconia School District for 11 years, seven as principal of the middle school and four as principal of the high school.

McCollum could not be reached for comment.