PRINCIPAL

FROM A1

to fifth grade, with sixthgraders joining the school this year when classes resume Sept. 5.

McCarthy said he could not estimate how long the investigation into Grayvold's license would take or whether it would be completed before the school year starts.

Grayvold, 50, a longtime school teacher and administrator in Michigan, was hired from a pool of 42 applicants to succeed Peggy Jones, who retired after 16 years as principal at Bonduel Elementary School. Grayvold previously had worked as a social studies teacher, football coach and elementary school principal in Norway, Michigan.

The Shawano Leader reported June 29 that Grayvold's past involved reports of alcohol abuse and domestic violence. His conviction in 2010 stemmed from an altercation with a woman who had confronted him about having alcohol on his breath. At the time of his arrest, Grayvold told police he was an alcoholic.

Records show he was originally charged with a felony and was convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence.

Grayvold signed a disclosure to the Michigan Department of Education indicating that he had been convicted of a crime.

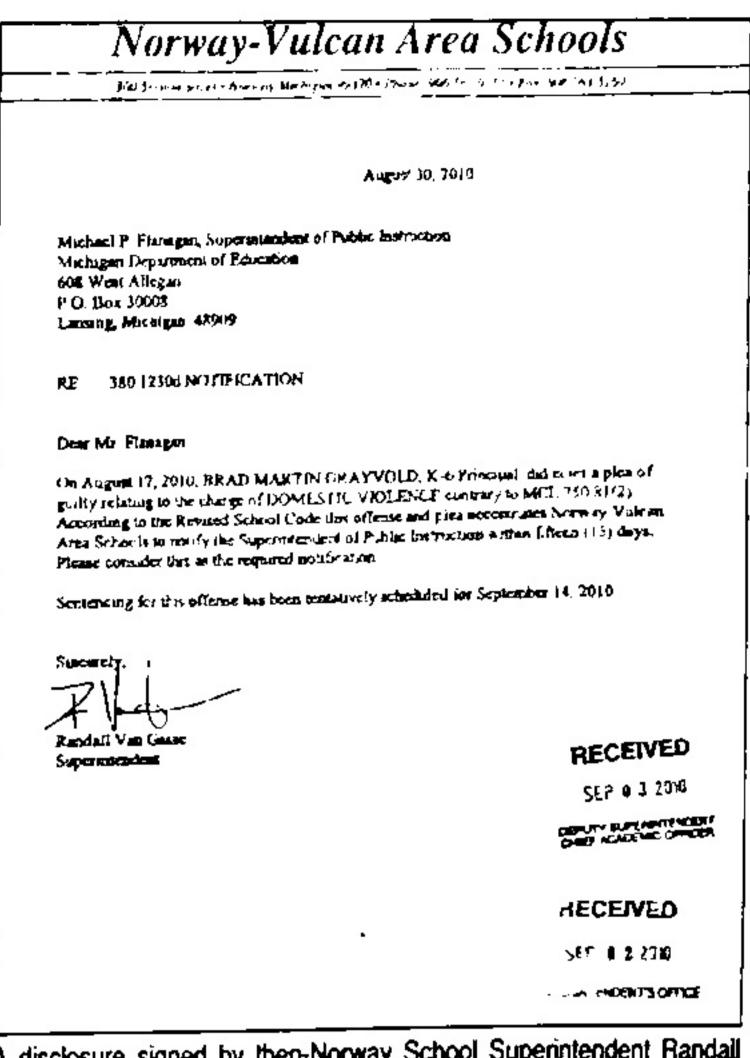
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A disclosure signed by Brad Grayvold informs the Michigan Department of Education in August 2010 that Grayvold has been convicted of a crime.

His school superintendent at the time, Randall Van Gasse, also filed a notification to the state that Grayvold had pleaded guilty to domestic violence.

Grayvold served about six more years as principal of the elementary school in Norway before seeking out new opportunities in Wisconsin.

DPI records obtained



A disclosure signed by then-Norway School Superintendent Randall Van Gasse informs Michigan state officials that Brad Grayvold pleaded guilty to domestic violence.

Grayvold received a license to become an administrator in Wisconsin effective Jan. 1 of this year. As part of the license application process, he completed a "conduct and competency" questionnaire regarding his background.

Grayvold answered "no" on two questions related to criminal history: whether he had ever been convicted "of any criminal or other offense" including cases that had been expunged, and whether he had ever participated in a prosecution agreement "to dispose of charges resulting from a criminal investigation," again including cases later expunged.

Disclosing prior a conviction for domestic violence might not have prevented Grayvold from getting his license, but it could have made the process more complicated.

McCarthy said state officials in those situa-**Etions** typically seek out court records and request an explanation from the applicant to determine if the conviction constituted "immoral conduct." State law covering school license applicants defines immoral conduct as behavior that is "contrary to commonly accepted moral or ethical standards and that endangers the health, safety, welfare or education of any pupil."

According to the DPI

by the Leader show that website, state officials generally learn about potential incidents of immoral conduct from mandatory school district disclosures, from parent or other citizen complaints, or from the news media.

> After publishing the June 29 report about Grayvold's criminal history, the Leader obtained his Wisconsin license information and asked state officials about their review of the application. As part of that inquiry, the newspaper provided DPI with copies of public records of Grayvold's criminal history in Michigan.

McCarthy said the state conducts a background check on every license applicant, but Grayvold's background turned up no information about the domestic violence case in Michigan. Officials are unsure why the 2010 case went undetected, he said.

On the DPI website, Grayvold's license status was changed Thursday from "valid" to "under investigation." State officials were also working Thursday to notify Grayvold and Bonduel school administrators of the investigation.

McCarthy said he could not recall the last time the state investigated whether someone had falsified a license application.

"It's not the usual reason that people go under investigation," he said.