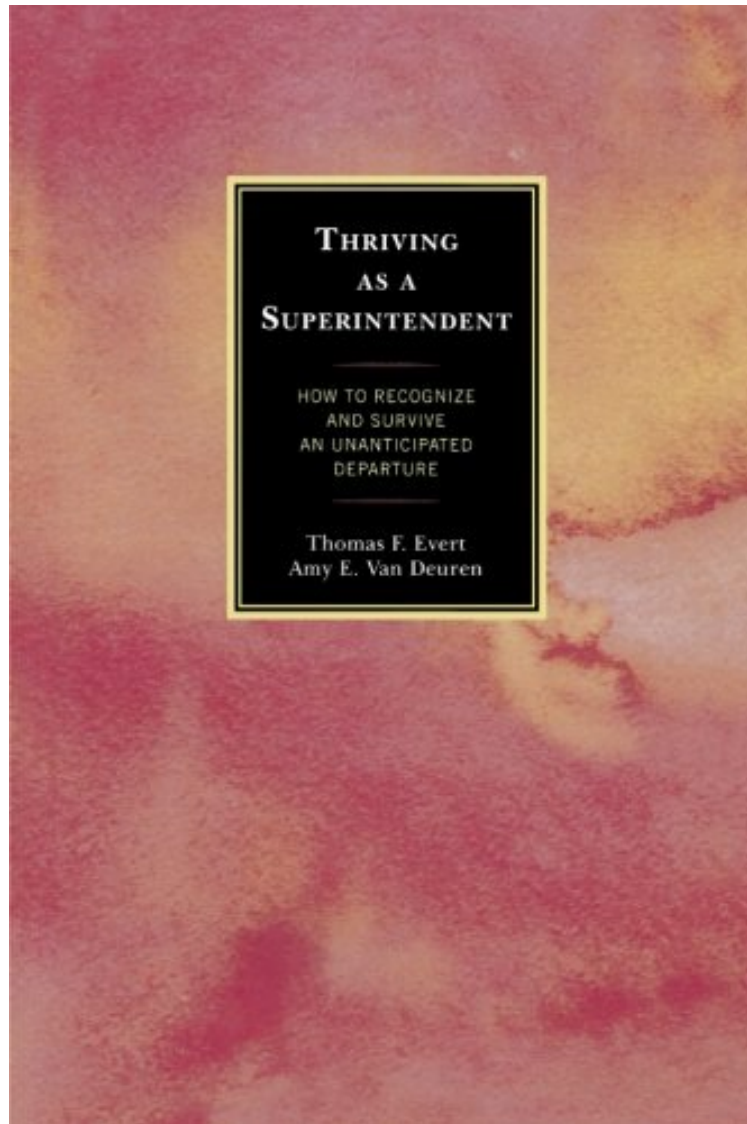


(Ebook pdf) Thriving as a Superintendent: How to Recognize and Survive an Unanticipated Departure

# Thriving as a Superintendent: How to Recognize and Survive an Unanticipated Departure

*Thomas F. Evert, Amy E. Van Deuren*  
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**Thomas F. Evert, Amy E. Van Deuren : Thriving as a Superintendent: How to Recognize and Survive an Unanticipated Departure** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thriving as a Superintendent: How to Recognize and Survive an Unanticipated Departure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy DAVID C DYB, Ed.DExcellent must read for every School Superintendent, very appropriate and inciteful. Stories are relevant and strategies are encouraging for

leaders. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Attention Superintendents: A MUST READ! By MBEvert and Van Deuren have come up with a great little book that every school superintendent should read and then review periodically. The way these two authors have intertwined research findings with information from their superintendent interviews is most impressive. There is a lot to be learned in this little book that superintendent's will find helpful from the first day of their honeymoon in a new district right up to when they will inevitably find it is time to look for a new district or a new way to earn a living. Signing on to serve as a school's superintendent is risky business and naivete about what those risks are is a potential for future disaster. If a new superintendent allows him/herself to think that the respect and admiration of a new community is going to last forever, and that the contract just signed means being accepted as a full-fledged member of that community, then emotional upheaval for the superintendent and his/her family is inevitable in the future. No matter how carefully weighed and well-researched decisions by the new superintendent may be, and no matter how strong the new superintendent's ego may be, humans will find ways to express their dissatisfaction with decisions they don't like. Often those dissatisfactions become personal attacks on the superintendent. Just a few people who are not happy with a leader's actions is not a big deal, but as time advances and decisions are necessarily made, the numbers of dissatisfied people grows and accumulates. It is sad but true that many people have long memories for decisions they don't like. This is the start of the "pocketful of rocks" that Evert and Van Deuren write about in their book. The information in the chapter on "Lessons Learned" is thought provoking and may cause reflection on situations that come up during a superintendency. Reading about how situations have evolved for other superintendents may be cause for reflection on one's own situation. It may be easier to consider someone else's circumstances objectively as emotions don't clutter our thoughts. Then we may later realize we have been able to make a connection to something important going on in our own lives. Finally, the "Conclusion" to this book alone is well worth the price. If you are a superintendent, aspire to be one, or are close to someone who is a superintendent, you should read and reflect on the words of wisdom offered by Dr. John Thurston in his "Suggestions for 'Changelings'". Dr. Thurston's words are profound, helpful, and extremely wise, as is this entire book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just the Right Mix By Pamela Nash, Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership, Edgewood College, Madison, WI, and former Many books about educational leadership are quite pedantic and theory heavy. This book is just the right blend of research, interviews, and focus on the very human side of leadership. This is a very practical and readable mix of lessons learned and the strategies needed to move forward on a career path where tenure is often short. The personal interviews were presented in an engaging way and I found myself wanting to warn the subjects about the dire consequences ahead! Not meant to be a wake-up call for floundering superintendents, but rather a primer on how to not end up in that position and how to exit gracefully, if you do.

All superintendents are at risk for an unanticipated departure and it can happen at any time in a career. Thriving as a Superintendent: How to Recognize and Survive an Unanticipated Departure is a resource for active and aspiring superintendents, which explores issues surrounding superintendent unanticipated departures. The book places special emphasis on lessons learned from the superintendents interviewed and current research about how to prepare for, recognize, and negotiate through an unanticipated departure, as well as how to move forward should such a departure occur. The authors conducted in-depth interviews with 22 superintendents who personally experienced unanticipated departures. These superintendents represent a wide range of experience levels and district contexts, and these interviews are compiled and synthesized so that their stories and lessons learned can be shared in a way that benefits readers. In addition, three in-depth scenarios (case studies) are included. These scenarios provide context for discussion and consideration. Each scenario includes an annotated reference section of relevant material that will be helpful to students and practitioners interested in engaging in further study.

I find this book is a must read for superintendents, aspiring superintendents and board members. Boards at some point will experience strained relationships with their leadership, and reading this book creates preparedness for when the turmoil presents itself. As a former school board member who currently serves as a staff member to a search firm, author, and school consultant, I find this book provides a realistic view of what a superintendent encounters when an early departure from the superintendency occurs. 22 superintendents provide significant and extensive insight and advise, at times light-hearted, at times heartbreaking. Either way, this hard to talk about topic is discussed in a way that brings insight and understanding to the reader. Finally the book boards and leadership need before 'it' happens! (Margaret (Peggy) Black, Center for Diverse Student Learning, Menomonee Falls, WI) Superintendents are expected to be problem solvers, yet when conflicts and turmoil impact a superintendents ability to lead, even the best problem solvers may find themselves in new uncharted rough waters. Unfortunately, an unanticipated departure can occur for any superintendent at any time in their career. Knowing how to navigate the rough waters can help superintendents ultimately make the critical decision to continue or leave a position. Through the stories of quiet leaders, Evert and Van Deuren have created a meaningful guide for navigating an unanticipated departure from the superintendency. Summaries of superintendent interviews, detailed case scenarios, and an extensive literature review create the roadmap for navigating and understanding perhaps the most difficult time in a superintendents career. This book is a must read

for superintendents and anyone studying the complexities of unanticipated departures. It may even save you from making the wrong decision! (Patricia Neudecker, Oconomowoc Area School District Superintendent, AASA Past President) Written by a former school board member, and a veteran superintendent, the experiences of 22 superintendents are artfully distilled on the topic of unanticipated departure. Using scenarios drawn from real life, this is a rare text that acknowledges and explores thorny circumstances and issues that have, and may well again, derail what had been a previously successful superintendency. Functioning on multiple levels, the text weaves real life stories with research through brief topical 'book reviews.' What happens when the match between the superintendent and her school board becomes undone? What can be done when board support dissipates? And finally, how do you know when its time to go? Using well-written, engaging, and true-to-life accounts, this text offers advice and direction to novice, mid-career, and veteran superintendents on how to cope with an unanticipated departure. This is not your typical 'how to' prescription for success, but rather a guide for surviving failure. If you are a practicing superintendent, or in a superintendent preparation program, this book is essential reading. (Norman Weston, director, Educational Leadership Doctoral Program, National Louis University) As a former superintendent for 22 years and now a trainer of superintendents at the university level, I can attest that this book is absolutely needed in our profession to alert the unsuspecting novice or veteran superintendent of mine fields to avoid. The discussion of how to deal with the issues that may lead to termination or early departure is treated in a manner that needs to be told. I endorse this work as one that is a must read for aspiring superintendents as well as superintendents at any level of their career. (Marvin Edwards, professor of educational leadership, Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois) Authors Thomas Evert and Amy Van Deuren, both university professors with experience in educational leadership and law, have written a well-researched, readable narrative on how to maneuver through an unanticipated departure. ... Superintendents will find this book to be an accurate assessment of life in the superintendency. (School Administrator) About the Author Thomas F. Evert, Ph.D. is a former public school superintendent of fourteen years and served as a high school principal and director of student services. His doctorate is in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Evert is currently serving as a doctoral dissertation liaison and teaches doctoral courses in law, media, curriculum, and instruction at Edgewood College. Amy E. Van Deuren, Ed.D. is an assistant professor at National Louis University and serves as the Program Coordinator for Educational Leadership at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin campus. She holds a doctorate from National Louis University and a law degree from the S.J. Quinney School of Law at the University of Utah. She teaches graduate courses in school law, school-community relations, student-centered schools, finance, policy, and research. Dr. Van Deuren has co-authored several books in the fields of educational leadership and music education.