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PUSD Names Dr. Jennifer Hawn as New Superintendent

Piedmont, Calif. (March 8, 2023) – After a nationwide search and extensive community engagement, the Piedmont Board of Education has selected Dr. Jennifer Hawn to serve as the District’s next Superintendent. The Board will vote to confirm Dr. Hawn’s appointment at its regular meeting this evening. The appointment will be effective July 1, 2023.



Serving in public education for over 25 years, Dr. Hawn has dedicated herself to serving K-12 and college students in California. She has an extensive educational background, including broad experience as a teacher and administrator with the Beverly Hills Unified School District, an Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources with the Whittier City School District, a university instructor for Pepperdine University, and currently serves as Deputy Superintendent for Da Vinci Schools serving the Wiseburn Unified School District in Southern California.

“Dr. Hawn is an exceptionally well-rounded leader, with significant experience in the classroom and as an administrator, as well as district operations, including human resources and as chief academic officer,” said Board President Veronica Anderson Thigpen. “The Board was impressed by Jennifer’s in-depth knowledge about our district and by her passion for our new vision, mission and values. She is ready to work with the Board and community stakeholders to map the next phase of district priorities and build on PUSD’s stellar educational program. We are excited about her joining our team.”

“I am honored to be selected by the Piedmont Board and I’m looking forward to serving the Piedmont community, which demonstrates unparalleled dedication and support for ensuring the finest education for students,” Dr. Hawn said. “I am ready to collaborate with the Board, educators, families, and the Piedmont community to fulfill our vision of students who are ‘compassionate leaders and courageous problem-solvers, ready to take on challenges and make a difference in a complex and interconnected world.’ I am thrilled to lead this exemplary district in delivering a world-class education that ensures academic excellence, a sense of belonging, and opportunities for all of our students to thrive.”

Throughout her career, Dr. Hawn has led schools in the delivery of innovative educational programs. She has published work in educational journals including *Principal Leadership* and *The High School Journal*, and has presented at multiple conferences, including the California State Department of Education STEM conference. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Arizona State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching English from Loyola Marymount University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California.

In July 2022, the Board named Dr. Donald Evans as Interim Superintendent for the 2022-23 school year. The Board partnered with executive search firm Leadership Associates to conduct a nationwide search for its next superintendent. The search process included nearly 50 meetings with community stakeholders and a survey with more than 400 responses. Feedback from these efforts informed the development of a superintendent profile for recruiting. In all, 22 applicants applied for the position. The Board selected six candidates for first-round interviews and brought back three for a second-round. Once the finalist was confirmed, two board members conducted a site visit to Da Vinci Schools in El Segundo and met with more than 30 people who work or engage with Dr. Hawn in her current role.

Having grown up in Manhattan Beach in Southern California, Dr. Hawn looks forward to joining the East Bay where her husband Andrew grew up. Dr. Hawn has two grown children, and enjoys hiking, including the annual family hike up Mt. Whitney.

During the remainder of the 2022-23 school year, Dr. Hawn will work directly with Dr. Evans and District leadership on the transition prior to taking over on July 1, 2023. A welcome event will be planned for the spring to introduce Dr. Hawn to the community.

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