



April 6, 2021

Dear West Chester Area School District,

After 12 years of skillfully leading our school district, and a lengthy career in public education, WCASD Superintendent Dr. Jim Scanlon has announced he is retiring, effective this August. As a School Board, we are very grateful to Jim for his unwavering commitment to our District, and for the many ways in which he has contributed to moving our school system towards continual improvement and pursuit of excellence.

After thoughtful deliberation, our Board will be voting April 26 to appoint WCASD current Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Bob Sokolowski, as our new superintendent. We are extremely pleased with Dr. Sokolowski's proven record of success in strengthening our system. He is an experienced, innovative educator who has led numerous key initiatives in the District, and has shown a keen understanding and ability to promote student growth and success.

At a time when our school district, like all districts across the country, is facing implications of the pandemic, the appointment of Dr. Sokolowski will provide critical continuity and transition in leadership that we feel will be extremely beneficial to the district. Our Board members carefully considered whether to conduct a full external search for a new superintendent, but our faith in Dr. Sokolowski, combined with our desire to provide stability and continuity through these tumultuous times, led us to this decision.

Our School Board will conduct a full national search for a new Assistant Superintendent, and we hope to have that person in place by the start of the next school year.

Dr. Sokolowski has served as Assistant Superintendent for the last six years. Prior to that he was Director of Secondary Education for two years, Principal at Henderson High School for five years, and previously an assistant principal there for four years. He is skilled in all aspects of educational management, and over the last 16 years in West Chester, he has developed a strong reputation in the district as a thoughtful, collaborative, dynamic leader. We know that Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Sokolowski will work closely throughout the rest of the school year to ensure a smooth transition. Both are completely dedicated to the district's success.

Over the last 12 years, Dr. Scanlon has helped West Chester to increase test scores and state and national rankings; introduce an innovative play-based full day kindergarten program; formed our District's Education Foundation; increased the number of children attending public schools in our District; introduced a cyber program; oversaw multiple construction projects; improved our budgeting process to help us maintain fiscal responsibility and the lowest tax rates in the County; implemented a K-12 equity program; increased opportunities for teacher collaboration and support; facilitated numerous community committees, including legislative initiatives - locally and statewide - to lobby for equity, public school funding and safety, and to reduce the amount of standardized testing. He has been known as a strong communicator who leads with integrity and a continual focus on students, and he will be missed.

We believe Dr. Sokolowski is uniquely positioned to continue many of the important initiatives already underway in the District, as well as continue to move the District forward through these unprecedented times. He's been an integral part of the District's success, and we are excited that he will continue and

expand his work in West Chester. Dr. Sokolowski looks forward to engaging with our community in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support for our school district during this challenging school year. We know the future is bright, and we look forward to welcoming Dr. Sokolowski to his new role this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris McCune". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chris McCune,
Board President on behalf of the
West Chester Area School District Board of Directors