



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

164 S. Prospect Avenue

Park Ridge, IL 60068-4079

(847) 318-4300

FAX: (847) 318-4351

For information, contact:

Asst. Superintendent Joel Martin, 847-318-4300

Bernadette Tramm, Public Information Coordinator, 847-318-4343

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2014

District 64 Board to Confirm Dr. Laurie Heinz as Next Superintendent; Community Invited to Welcome Reception at January 30 Special Meeting

The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education will confirm the appointment of Laurie Heinz, Ed.D., as Superintendent at a special meeting on Thursday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The brief meeting will be followed by a reception open to all community members to welcome Dr. Heinz, who will officially join District 64 on July 1. She is replacing Dr. Philip Bender, who is leaving the District at the end of this school year.

Dr. Heinz is currently in her third year as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Skokie School District 68 in Skokie.

According to Board President Anthony Borrelli, the Board was particularly impressed with Dr. Heinz's "high level of understanding of 21st century learning and the elevated demands of the Common Core State Standards, which will allow her to work seamlessly with District 64's Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, administrators, teachers and parents on the ongoing transition to best maximize the District's efforts," he added.

Her communication and leadership skills also stood out, which are essential in the Park Ridge-Niles community with its high expectations for local schools and a tradition of active community involvement, Borrelli noted.

"She has a strong desire to form collaborative groups to solve problems that will reflect all interests," he pointed out. He also noted that Dr. Heinz showed "a desire to be unequivocal, clear and concise" in helping the Board and community understand policies and complex topics as they arise.

As a leader, Board members observed that "she is able to seek an endpoint and formulate a plan to reach it, and that she is goal-, process- and achievement-oriented that can be measurable to the District and community," Borrelli related. As District 64's current Strategic Plan enters its final year, her previous work on strategic planning to develop a shared vision for the future also was earmarked, he pointed out.

Further, Dr. Heinz "exhibited a vibrant, yet controlled enthusiasm towards what she does. The Board expects that she will help energize the District to push personal boundaries and goals in all areas," Borrelli noted. "This energy should increase the personal enjoyment in what we all do, as we realize that we are part of a new beginning in District 64," he added.

- MORE -

DISTRICT 64 SUPERINTENDENT / ADD ONE

"I am honored and excited about being given the opportunity as Superintendent to help every child find continued success within District 64 and maintaining the excellence for which it's known, while bringing a fresh perspective to its future," Dr. Heinz stated. "I am passionate about educating children, working alongside staff to maximize student achievement, and leveraging community and Board of Education involvement to create an engaging and high-performing learning environment for all students. I look forward to joining the District 64 community on July 1," she added.

Prior to becoming Skokie's Assistant Superintendent in 2011, Dr. Heinz was a principal for nine years with Northbrook School District 27 in Northbrook, working at two schools with students in grades 3-5 and K-3. Earlier, she was an assistant principal working with students in grades K-8 at Palatine Community Consolidated School District 15 in Palatine. She began her career in education teaching first and second grades in the northern suburbs.

A graduate of National College of Education, Dr. Heinz holds master's degrees from both National-Louis University and Northern Illinois University, and an endorsement in English as a Second Language from Loyola University. She received her doctorate from National-Louis University.

The appointment of Dr. Heinz concludes months of intensive activity for the District 64 Board. Working with the assistance of BWP & Associates search consultants, the Board interviewed six candidates in mid-December recommended from a much larger pool of applicants reviewed by BWP. A Leadership Profile, prepared through input from all voices in the community via an online survey and small group meetings this fall, helped guide the Board through the process.

Earlier in January, Dr. Heinz and another finalist each visited District 64 for a full day of meetings with all members of the District 64 community, including staff, administrators, parents and other community members, as well as an extended session with the Board. A team of Board members and administrators visited Dr. Heinz's district earlier this month before the Board made its final selection.

#