

Whitehall District Schools



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July 31, 2024

Dear Whitehall District Schools Community,

Yesterday, Dr. McDowell sent a letter to the community announcing his retirement. Over the years, the WDS Board of Education has proactively prepared for this scenario. While we feel it is happening sooner than we would like, we have prepared a succession plan that will ensure a seamless transition.

On Tuesday morning the WDS Board of Education held a work session to discuss the transition timeline for the next Superintendent of WDS. It was determined the Board would seek an internal candidate to serve as Interim Superintendent during this transition. The Board will set goals for the selected individual and monitor their effectiveness through the 24-25 school year. While the timeline is subject to change, the Board feels that by monitoring the Interim Superintendent's goals alongside the district's progress throughout the transition, the Board will be well prepared to determine the scope of the search process by January of 2025.

WDS is fortunate to have a strong administrative team, teaching staff, and support staff that are appreciated and among the best in the profession. We have full faith in their ability to serve the students of Whitehall District Schools during this leadership transition. We are grateful to have had Dr. McDowell at the helm and look forward to working with our next leader to continue the forward progress.

We support Dr. McDowell as he transitions into a new and exciting role as Executive Director of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA) where he will continue to support education and administrators in the State of Michigan.

Congratulations to the entire McDowell family as they embark on a new adventure!

Sincerely,

WDS Board of Education

Rachel Fekken - President

Chris Mahoney - Vice President

Paula Martin - Secretary

Jimmy TenBrink - Treasurer

Shannon McGoran - Trustee

Tim Cross - Trustee

Melissa Moore - Trustee