

Media Release

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

For Release on Tuesday, June 15 at 9:00 p.m.:

South Fayette Township School Board approves Michelle Miller as next superintendent.

Contact:

**South Fayette Township School District
3680 Old Oakdale Road
McDonald, PA 15057**

South Fayette Township, PA – The South Fayette Township School Board (SFTSB) is pleased to announce it has selected Dr. Michelle Miller to be its next superintendent of schools. The Board voted to approve a contract with Dr. Miller at its regularly scheduled voting meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. Dr. Miller is expected to begin at South Fayette Township School District in August.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome a superintendent with Dr. Miller's diverse experience and background,” said Alan Vezzi, president of the South Fayette Township School District. “Her extensive experience in school districts will serve her well here at South Fayette. She brings superintendent, building level and classroom experience with her.

“The Chester County Intermediate Unit did an outstanding job bringing us a rich and diverse candidate pool; and I believe Dr. Miller best meets the needs of our community and will continue to move our district forward for years to come. She is an outstanding educator and an excellent leader, and I look forward to her joining our team here at South Fayette,” concluded President Vezzi.

According to Dr. Miller's resume, she has 11 years of experience as a sitting superintendent. She is currently the Superintendent of the Hopewell Area School District in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. She was appointed to the post in June 2016. As superintendent, she oversees 300 employees, a \$44 million budget, and over 2100 students. Prior to being appointed superintendent at Hopewell Area School District, Dr. Miller also served as Superintendent of Wilmington Area School District, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania from 2013-2016, and as Superintendent of Blackhawk School District, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania 2010-2013.

Dr. Miller's appointment will conclude a five-month process that began in February 2021, when the Board approved a contract with the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) to conduct a search. Throughout the search, the Board was committed to locating and naming the best superintendent possible to lead the district.

“I am excited and honored to have been chosen as the new superintendent of South Fayette Township School District,” said Dr. Miller. “I look forward to working collaboratively with the school board, staff, students, parents and community. I am committed to enhancing the tradition,

pride, and excellence that has placed South Fayette as the ‘top district of the decade’ in the region.”

The search efforts yielded a diverse pool of 20 applicants, consisting of nine veteran superintendents, assistant superintendents, central office and building administrators. During March and April, the board held a series of focus groups with parents, staff, and the community at large. In addition, an electronic survey was also distributed to parents, staff and the community to gather stakeholder input.

The information obtained from the focus groups and the survey was used to develop a candidate profile and interview questions that center on the qualities and skills identified as being critical for the next superintendent to possess.

Of the 20 applicants, the Board selected 11 applicants for first-round screening interviews. At the conclusion of first-round interviews, the board selected four candidates to advance to second-round interviews, from those four the Board selected Dr. Miller for a third, and final interview.

As a recap of the search process, the following steps were taken:

- The South Fayette Township School Board selected the Chester County Intermediate Unit to conduct the search in February 2021.
- The position was advertised in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia through educational associations and educational career links. In addition, the position was advertised nationally with Education Week and the National Alliance of Black School Administrators.
- Twelve focus groups were scheduled for school district staff, parents, students, and the community at large in March and April 2021.
- An electronic survey was also sent to district staff, parents and students, and had over 200 respondents.
- Eleven themes were identified based on input from focus group attendees and survey respondents. These themes were used to develop and select interview questions.
- Twenty applications for the position of superintendent were received and screened.
- Eleven applicants were interviewed during first-round interviews conducted in May.
- Four applicants were selected to advance to second-round interviews in May.
- Dr. Miller was selected for a third-round interview in May.
- Background checks and contract negotiations for the finalist were conducted in late May and June.
- Dr. Miller will assume the position of superintendent at South Fayette Township in August.

####