



April 24, 2018

Dear Lakewood Families,

Roughly two years ago, the Board of Education approved a new strategic plan which outlined an ambitious roadmap for our district. This plan included, among other important targets, an aggressive set of action steps dedicated toward increasing student supports, raising student achievement, expanding learning pathways for our students, and broadening our support for teachers and staff. Part of this plan was the development of a full-time position to champion teaching and learning in our district. For many years the district's responsibility for curriculum development, assessment, and student supports has been shared by administrators, each leading different instructional core areas. This model of distributive leadership has served the district well; however, in order to meet the changing demands in readying students for post-secondary life and provide the very best for our students and staff, full-time leadership in this area is necessary.

In March of this year, a position was posted for Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment, & Innovation. We received over 40 applicants from across the state with varying skill sets and experience. Through a thorough interview process involving administration, support staff, and teaching staff, the candidate pool was narrowed to 2 very well-qualified candidates. I am pleased to announce our high school principal, Mr. Jay Larner has accepted this position and will commence its duties on July 1, 2018.

Mr. Larner brings an authentic care and concern for students, a wonderful ability to work collaboratively with others, and detailed working knowledge of our district, allowing him to hit the ground running. Mr. Larner is completing his 13th year in education; serving in administration since 2010. He received his BA from Albion College and his MA in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Mr. Larner to this very critical post.

It is important to note that this position, while "new" in format, is not entirely a new cost on our budget. In fact, the majority of the cost is already structurally in the budget and will be pooled for this position. This is a necessary investment in the future of our students.

We have launched a search for the next principal of Lakewood High School. This posting is located at [PRINCIPAL APPLICATION LINK](#). Please pass this information along in your circles of influence. The deadline to apply is May 9, 2018. If you would like to give input on the high school principal search, please complete the survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/ODNmKPCgMy2NEItb2>.

For Student Safety and Success,

Randall J. Fleenor
Superintendent



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