

SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Christopher Kobik, Interim Superintendent



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March 28, 2024

Dear Somers Point School District and Community,

Your Board of Education has held an extensive Superintendent search that included five special meetings in addition to two monthly regular meetings. Nearly two dozen candidates were screened, eight follow-up interviews and three finalist interviews were held, with performance tasks and presentations conducted. More than 50 hours were meticulously dedicated to this critical process, prioritizing fidelity every step of the way.

We are pleased to announce that the Somers Point Board of Education has selected Mr. Ted Pugliese as the next Superintendent to lead our district. Mr. Pugliese brings with him a wealth of experience, dedication, and a deep-rooted commitment to fostering excellence in education and strength within the community.

With 28 years of experience in the field of education, including 17 years as a Principal, Mr. Pugliese has demonstrated his exceptional leadership skills and unwavering passion for student success. His time as Principal of Jordan Road School for nearly two years has been marked by collaborative partnerships, stabilizing efforts and a steadfast focus on student achievement.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Pugliese's involvement in the Somers Point community exemplifies his dedication to serving others. As a member of AMVETS, the American Legion Post 352, and the Knights of Columbus, he has actively contributed to the betterment of our community. Furthermore, his service as an US Army Veteran during the Gulf War underscores his commitment to our country and its values.

In accordance with the feedback gathered from our recent school and community survey, which overwhelmingly favored the path of finding a candidate willing to make necessary improvements and changes in district operations to support improved student learning and achievement, Mr. Pugliese's selection aligns closely with the priorities and expectations expressed by our stakeholders. His proven track record throughout the course of his career of promoting equity, fostering partnerships, and raising student achievement resonates deeply with the values and goals of our district. Additionally, Mr. Pugliese embodies the personal characteristics identified in the survey as essential for a successful superintendent, including his reputation as a problem solver, approachable demeanor, genuine authenticity and commitment to transparency.

As we embark on this new chapter under Mr. Pugliese's leadership, we are confident that his vision, expertise, and collaborative approach will propel our district to new heights of excellence.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Christopher Kobik, Interim Superintendent, for his invaluable assistance, leadership, and expertise during his tenure in our district, as well as throughout this two-month-long Superintendent Search Process.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support to the Somers Point School District, and we look forward to our collective efforts in shaping a brighter future for our community.

Most Sincerely,

Staci DiMattia Endicott

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President, Somers Point Board of Education