

Farmington Public Schools selects Dorene Forster as the new Principal of Visions Unlimited

Farmington, MI -- At their October 6 meeting, the Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education approved the selection of Dorene Forster to serve as the new Principal of Visions Unlimited. Visions Unlimited is the District's post-secondary educational program for young adults, ages 18-26, who have physical and developmental disabilities.

In this role, Forster will plan, organize, and direct the overall activities and operations for Visions Unlimited. She will supervise programs for students with severe multiple disabilities throughout the District, as well. Dorene will supervise and coordinate all staff, professional learning, teacher training, home instruction for special needs students, and special education transportation. Forster will build and maintain positive relationships with students, parents, groups, business partners, and other related agencies. She will act as the liaison among the District, the community, and the special education students and their families to develop successful transitional activities.

Dorene Forster's passion for education began 23 years ago when she began her career as a paraprofessional at Visions Unlimited, formerly Cloverdale. While in this role, Forster realized that she did not simply want to help students, she wanted to instruct them. Therefore, she went back to school and earned her Masters of Education from the University of Detroit Mercy. She later acquired her Autism Endorsement Certification from Eastern Michigan University to work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In 2005, Dorene became the District's Autism Consultant. In this role, Dorene has supported students, staff, and families from Kindergarten through age 26. Her responsibilities included program development, professional development, coaching, and training regarding ASD. For several years, Dorene has assisted with the coordination of the Extended School Year and Crisis Prevention. Currently, she is active in District leadership through facilitating problem solving workgroups, coaching, and mentoring teachers.

"I am so happy to have this incredible opportunity to further my abilities and support student learning and potential," stated Dorene. "I truly love teaching and supporting parents and colleagues to positively impact our students' lifelong success."



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| FOR RELEASE: | IMMEDIATE |

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"Forster's passion and commitment to this District is evident. We look forward to her leadership at Visions," stated Bob Herrera, Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools.

Congratulations, Dorene! Thank you for your continued dedication to Farmington Public Schools. To learn more about Farmington Public Schools, visit www.farmington.k12.mi.us.