

November 23, 2022

## South Sioux City Community Schools ***New Superintendent Announcement***

**PRESS  
RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*



The School Board voted to extend an offer to **Dr. Rony Ortega** to serve as the new Superintendent of South Sioux City Community School District. This offer is pending contractual agreement and final background checks.

The decision came after public interviews with all four of the final candidates, who were asked to weigh in on culture, student achievement, facility needs and other key issues.

"As a board, we are faced with a number of difficult decisions. The Board of Education understands the importance of this process and selection, with respect to our students, staff and community."

"This was one of the toughest decisions I've ever made," board Vice President Chris Krueger said after the board emerged from a long closed session.

Krueger said the board "struggled" with the decision because of the strengths of the finalists. "We really had a talented slate of finalists, each candidate brought high-caliber educational knowledge and community relations."

Ortega is currently serving as the Bryan High School Principal and he has held that position for four years. He formerly served as Executive Director of School Support and Supervision for the Omaha Public School District. He was also the principal of Buffett Magnet Middle School in Omaha for four years.

Ortega holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Nebraska - Omaha, a Master in Education Leadership from University of Nebraska - Omaha, a Master in School Counseling from University of Nebraska Omaha, and a Bachelors in Secondary Education from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

During his public interview, Ortega told the board, "There are 244 districts in Nebraska and South Sioux City is one of only three that he would consider." He went on to say, "...it's bigger than me, it is about service to the community, it is about making a difference." Ortega feels that his strengths align to the challenges South Sioux City is facing. Ortega shared a draft transition plan with the Board of Education during the interviews on Monday evening. Ortega's contract will likely start on July 1, 2023.



**Dr. Rony Ortega**

Ortega will be replacing Todd Strom, who announced his retirement in September. Strom's last day will be June 30, 2023. The Board of Education plans to officially approve his contract at its December 12, 2022 regular meeting.

For more information check out our "Superintendent Search" link on the District Website: <https://www.scccardinals.org/district-info/superintendent-search.html>

