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## **Indianola School Board Names Tara Paul Next Superintendent**

*Board selects Paul after an exhaustive search involving more than 30 candidates*

INDIANOLA, IOWA — The Indianola Community School District School Board has named Tara Paul as the district's next superintendent.

Paul currently serves as superintendent of the Estherville Lincoln Central Community School District, where she has led with a focus on improved teaching and learning to increase achievement and promote the success of all students. She implemented a district-wide Multi-Tiered Structure of Support (MTSS) system to meet differentiated student needs, while coordinating a system-wide strategic plan.

Previously, Paul was the curriculum director, ESL coordinator, and equity coordinator for the Columbus Community Schools. She began her career as a classroom teacher at the elementary and junior high levels in Wilton, Iowa.

"We are incredibly excited to announce that Tara Paul will become the next superintendent of our school district, starting in the 2024-25 school year," said Mack Rankin, Board President. "After a truly comprehensive search process, we are confident that we have found the best person to lead our district into the future. We look forward to welcoming Tara to our community and are excited about what the future holds for our schools, students, staff, and families."

The board used an intentional and in-depth process in selecting the next superintendent from the more than 30 candidates. The board reviewed all applications and resumes. All candidates were also asked to complete an initial video interview, answering four key questions from the board.

After narrowing the list to six semifinalists, the board met in person and deliberated to decide on three finalists. The finalists met with groups of students, staff members, and parents and community members, with each group providing their feedback to the board.

The board then met with the candidates at length, conducted research, and gained feedback from references and members of each finalist's current school district community. The board carefully reviewed the feedback provided about each candidate.

At the end of this exhaustive process, the board determined that Paul would be the best fit for the Indianola Community School District. She, along with her husband Chris and their family, will relocate to the community. They have three daughters: the youngest is in high school, their middle daughter is a senior this year and will be attending Iowa State University this fall and their oldest daughter is currently a student at ISU, with both older daughters pursuing careers in education.

“I am thrilled to join the Indianola School District and lead this outstanding educational community moving forward,” said Paul. “In my time meeting with students, families, staff, and community members, I have been impressed with the incredible dedication to public education and the amazing support of this community for its local schools. I look forward to meeting everyone as we prepare for the 2024-25 school year together.”

Paul will replace current Superintendent Ted Ihns, who is retiring at the end of the current school year. She will officially assume the role of superintendent July 1, 2024.

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*Note to Editor: Please [visit this link](#) to access a photo of Superintendent Tara Paul.*