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NCSD Announces Finalists for Superintendent Vacancy

A virtual forum on Feb. 1 will introduce candidates to community

Milwaukie, OR (January 29, 2021)—North Clackamas Schools (NCSD) has identified three (3) finalists who are being considered to replace retiring Superintendent Matt Utterback. Initially, Superintendent Utterback was going to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, but delayed his retirement until the end of the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three finalists being considered by NCSD's School Board are (in alphabetical order):

Debbie Brockett, who currently serves as a Region Superintendent for Clark County School District, where she oversees 108 Pre-K-12 schools, including two Career and Technical Academies, a virtual learning academy, and several magnet schools; Ms. Brockett has been serving public school students for over 26 years



Her career began with Clark County School District, where she was a special education teacher and coach. She then moved into administration and served as a dean of students, assistant principal, and principal. As the principal of Las Vegas High School, she improved the Advanced Placement course offerings, increased the career and technical pathways, and consistently increased the graduation rate for all student groups. In 2016, she was chosen to receive the Heart of Education Award for Innovation in Schools. She is also an adjunct professor in the school leadership and special education departments at National University.

Dr. Timothy Gadson currently serves as an associate superintendent with Anoka-Hennepin Schools in Anoka, Minnesota. Dr. Gadson received his Bachelor's degree in Business Economics and Secondary Education from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical

University in Tallahassee, Florida, and his Masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.



Dr. Gadson's career has including serving as an assistant principal and principal at various levels, including primary, middle, and high school, with Broward County and Palm Beach County school districts. He was also District Director of Secondary Education while employed with Palm Beach County School District. Additionally, Dr. Gadson led reform and transformation efforts at several high schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as Chief Transformation Officer with a private organization from 2010 – 2012.

Prior positions include supervising high school operations for the Austin Independent School District in Austin, Texas, Associate Superintendent with Atlanta Public Schools, and Executive Director of Curriculum and Schools with Robbinsdale Area Schools in New Hope, Minnesota, among other roles.

Dr. Shay James is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Education for North Clackamas Schools (NCSD). Dr. James joined NCSD in 2016 and previously served as its Executive Director of High School Programs. Prior to her work at NCSD, she held several roles with Portland Public Schools, where she worked as a teacher, then Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, and then Principal of Franklin High School. Before leaving Portland Public Schools, she was the Senior Director of High Schools and College and Career Readiness. Before her 21+ year career in education, Dr. James worked in the business sector. She earned her Bachelor of Science (BS) and her Masters in Education (M.ED) at Portland State University, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) from Lewis and Clark College. Additionally, she taught as an adjunct professor at Washington State University in Vancouver, Washington for two years.



To introduce these finalists to the community, NCSD is holding a virtual forum to hear each person respond to pre-selected questions on February 1 from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Registration is required, and once registered, attendees will receive the necessary sign-in information. Following each person's 45-minute session, attendees can complete a confidential Candidate Impression Form that NCSD's School Board will use during their February 4, 2021 meeting to deliberate on the finalists.

NCSD is an award-winning district that prepares students who are inspired and empowered to strengthen the quality of life in our local and global communities. More information about NCSD is available at www.nclack.k12.or.us.