



February 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

William Penn School District – Superintendent of Schools Position Update

The William Penn Board of School Directors is pleased to announce that the search for the district's next Superintendent has reached its final phase.

The Board began the search process in August 2019, by conducting a community survey and focus groups to determine what District stakeholders were looking for in their new superintendent and engaged the superintendent subcommittee for input into this process. The community responded with their opinions, goals, and priorities for the role. The Board then conducted a comprehensive search process facilitated by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) and guided by the community's feedback. Of the 48 applications that were received, 12 were selected by the search committee for initial interviews. Six candidates advanced to the second round, and two to the final round.

At this time, the Board is pleased to announce **Dr. Eric J. Becoats** as the finalist candidate for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the William Penn School District. He has been chosen to succeed retiring Superintendent Ms. Jane Harbert.

The Board intends to name Dr. Eric J. Becoats to this position at its regularly scheduled school board meeting on February 24, 2020 subject to the execution of a mutually- acceptable Contract of Employment. The meeting will be held in the William Penn School District Administrative Building, 100 Green Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050 at 7:30pm (pre-session beginning at 6:30pm). The Board thanks the community for its involvement in this important process.

Community Forum

The William Penn Board of School Directors invites all community members and staff to meet Dr. Eric J. Becoats on February 20, 2020 at a forum to be held in the auditorium at Penn Wood High School [100 Green Avenue; Lansdowne, PA 19050]. The forum will take place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and be moderated by Dr. Maria Edelberg, Executive Director of the Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

Input from the community and staff is appreciated. The community and staff are asked to submit questions for consideration via this web link, [William Penn School District Superintendent Proposed Finalist Questions](#) or by calling [610-938-9320](tel:610-938-9320) and leaving your question on the voice mailbox. Both means will be accessible until **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 11:59 PM**. Dr. Edelberg will categorize the questions by theme and ask them directly to **Dr. Eric J. Becoats** at the forum. This process will maximize the number of questions that can be addressed in the time allotted. The community and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.

Resume of Dr Eric J. Becoats

CORE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Instructional Leadership and Technology ♦ Leadership and Professional Development ♦ Curriculum Development ♦ Strategic Planning ♦ Research and Assessment ♦ Operational Management ♦ Motivating, Leading and Managing People ♦ Project Management

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Doctorate of Education, Educational Leadership, 2001

Johns Hopkins University
Master of Science, Finance, 1992

Lincoln University
Bachelor of Science, Accounting, 1988 (cum laude)

EXPERIENCE

Drexel University-June 2016 - Present

Adjunct Professor

Serves as professor for Curriculum Models in the School of Education. Engages students in understanding curriculum and learning theory for the 21st century. Provides guidance related to the relationships among curriculum ideologies, the standards movement, and the realities of a school system seeking a sustainable future for children. Strategies for interdisciplinary teaching, creating constructivist learning environments, and developing integrative curriculum modules are explored. Use of learning technologies to enhance the development of curriculum is utilized in the course.

The School District of Philadelphia-July 2015-Present

Assistant Superintendent

Responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan to support underperforming schools. Provides data analyses and information to inform decision makers. Develops and implements leadership and professional development initiatives for principals, teachers and teacher leaders in the areas of curriculum, data analysis, instruction, program management, assessment, evaluation, climate and culture. Develops opportunities for partnerships between external and internal audiences to support school improvement. Ensures that schools utilize student data in planning lessons and monitor the database system for assessing student performance. Evaluates the instructional program to ensure attainment of student outcome goals; evaluates instructional staff using criteria adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction.

Accomplishments:

- Developed a school equity turnaround model for 19 schools serving over 9,000 students in grades K-12
- Developed and implemented instructional data protocols for 19 network schools in grades K-12
- Successfully trained 19 principals on researched based data-driven instructional practices
- Increased the number of Network Schools showing improvement in student achievement by 81 % within one year

Atlantic Research Partners- December 2013 - June 2015

Senior Executive Director/Principal

Served as key academic leader for middle grades at Jackson Middle School in Rockford, IL. Provided school improvement services in urban school districts across Illinois, provided support and analyses on school operations, effective school programming, teaching and learning and program implementation for teachers of students in grades 6-8. Provided quality assessment data related to programming at the community and collegiate level. Worked with community partners in five major domains: STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) to provide college and career opportunities for students K-16.

Durham Public Schools - July 2010 - December 2013

Superintendent

Ensured the development of high performance standards in educational achievement. Served as the district's principal liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission. Ensured the accreditation requirements were incorporated into the planning and evaluation process of the organization. Developed a K-16 articulation plan for students in the areas of STEM, Communication Arts and Engineering. Developed and recommended to the Board long-range plans consistent with population trends, cultural needs, and the appropriate use of district facilities and other resources. Cultivated positive relationships with other school districts, the State Education Department, colleges and universities, the U.S. Department of Education, local businesses and community agencies in support of the district's strategic plan. Expanded the district's capacity to generate external funding and support for educational initiatives through the network of strategic partnerships and the aggressive pursuit of relevant grant opportunities.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University-Spring 2006

Adjunct Professor - School of Education

Served as an adjunct professor for the Law, Policy, and Politics of Education course.

Guilford County Schools July 2005-June 2010

Chief Administrative Officer, December 2008-June 2010

Served as the visionary leader for accountability, research and evaluation, operational and instructional technology and human resources. Coordinated program development efforts to support district operations for 120 schools among five regions. Served as a liaison to community foundations and institutions of higher education. Served as the district's lead architect and chief communicator for the Strategic Plan 2012.

Chief of Staff, July 2005 - December 2008

Served as the chief strategist for district functions related to assessment, evaluation, human resources, technology, and district relations. Responsible for assessing student learning outcomes and program goals. Served as the staff liaison to the Board of Education, community foundations, and institutions of higher learning.

Co-Interim Superintendent, 2008

Served as the chief visionary leader in a district serving 71,000 students in 120 schools with an operating budget in excess of \$600M. Innovative initiatives included early/middle colleges, International Baccalaureate programs K-16, and non-traditional high schools serving students who speak more than 142 languages. The district is the largest employer in the county with over 10,000 employees.

Instructional Team Leader, 2006- 2007

Provided oversight to one of the district's lowest performing schools. The Title I elementary school served approximately 400 students. Provided support to the instructional planning team and grade level team. Monitored daily instructional strategies of teachers in grades K-5. Identified and implemented various strategies to address student behavior.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools September 1997 March 2004

Assistant Superintendent - Planning and Development, 2002-2004

Served as the district's chief planning strategist for operations related to student placement, process and project management and operational and instructional technology. Provided leadership and support to more than 100 staff members who supported 115,000 students in 125 schools.

Chief Officer- Demographics and Planning, 1998 -2002

Ensured financial and human resource accountability within two departments including 20 professional staff members. Developed district-wide policies and procedures for short term and long range planning.

Executive Director - Planning Management, 1997-1998

Developed a district wide student assignment plan for more than 98,000 students in grades K-12. Developed and implemented magnet programs and feeder patterns to support school articulation.

Baltimore City Public Schools-July 1992-August 1997

Chief Planner, Strategic Planning and Student Placement - 1996-1997

Served as the district's chief resource for planning and development activities related to student assignment, citywide school placements, magnet programs and strategic plan development. Served as the Superintendent's Advisory Committee liaison to the Maryland State Department of Public Instruction.

Director II -Planning and Student Placement-1992-1996

Responsible for enhancing the information management system and the citywide geographical database of over 98,000 student records.

Additional Experience and Professional Enhancement Programs

RELAY Graduate School of Education, 2017

Harvard School of Education, Turnaround Leadership, 2017

The Versatile Leader: One-on-One Coaching, 2016

Intact Team Program: Adaptive Leadership, Cambridge Leadership Associates, 2007