

# **School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties**

## **Board of Trustees**

### **PUBLIC STATEMENT – June 11, 2018**

I would like to make the following statement on behalf of the Board regarding our Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Hefner. As has just been established through Board action, at our meeting this evening, the Board conducted its final evaluation of Dr. Hefner and found his overall evaluation to be extraordinarily exceptional. His evaluation speaks for itself.

Dr. Hefner's accomplishments on behalf of the District during the 2017-18 school year are reflected in his overall extraordinarily exceptional evaluation. Under Dr. Hefner's leadership, the District has continued to achieve excellence in student achievement; fill its teaching positions with highly qualified, properly certified teachers; strengthen its access to and utilization of technology to improve teaching and learning; ensure effective and efficient utilization of the District's fiscal and physical resources; reinforce its efforts to provide for the safety, emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of students and staff; and provide an effective communication system with employees, parents, students, and the community.

One of Dr. Hefner's many strengths is his ability to recognize and support outstanding leaders. This is evidenced by the fact that during his time as Superintendent, numerous District administrators received state and national awards for their leadership. Most recently, Dr. Akil Ross, principal of Chapin High School, was named the 2018 NASSP National Principal of the Year. Kelly Reese, assistant principal at Lake Murray Elementary School, was named SCASA's 2018 Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. Reggie Kennedy, Irmo High School athletic director, was named SCAAA Regional Athletic Director of the Year. Todd Bedenbaugh, director of student nutrition, was named School Nutrition Association's Director of the Year for

South Carolina and the Southeast Regional Director of the Year. Dr. Michael Lofton, principal at Spring Hill High School, was named 2018 Magnet Schools of America National Principal of the Year. Additionally, Dr. Hefner was named 2018 Magnet Schools of America national Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Hefner was also given the Lifetime Achievement award by the Irmo Chamber.

We are grateful for all that Dr. Hefner has done during his eight school years of leading School District Five to build a strong foundation for the future of our District. We further appreciate Dr. Hefner's efforts to provide the Board and District with a smooth transition to the leadership of our next Superintendent, Dr. Christina Melton.

On behalf of the School District Five Board of Trustees and the entire District Five community, we simply say "thank you" for a job that is clearly your passion and extremely, extraordinarily well done. Thank you for your clear vision and laser focus leading School District of Lexington & Richland Counties to new heights. Thank you, Dr. Hefner.

Chairman Robert Gantt for the Board

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