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Media Release

Division of Strategy and
Communications

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools



Anthony S. Dixon, Ed.D.
Interim Chief of Schools

Anthony Dixon selected to serve as Chief of Schools

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Dr. Anthony Dixon as Interim Chief of Schools. Dixon rejoins CCSD from Berkeley County School District (BCSD) where he has served as Chief of Academics and Innovation and Chief of Secondary Schools for the last two years.

Dixon first entered the field of education in 2000 as the GEAR Up Program Director at the College of Charleston (CofC). While serving in this capacity, he also began his teaching career as a special education teacher at St. Stephen Elementary School in BCSD and Memminger Elementary School (CCSD).

After five years in the classroom, Dixon was named assistant principal at Boulder Bluff Elementary before next taking his talents to Daniel Island School. Recognized for his high-impact and transformational leadership, it was only a short time before Dixon was selected to serve as principal at Memminger Elementary School in 2008.

Over the next three years at Memminger, Dixon was instrumental in facilitating the development implementation of one of the district's first partial magnet programs and a three-year-old full day magnet program to provide early childhood learning opportunities for a diverse population of students. He also established a higher education partnership with CofC and the WINGS for Kids program. Additionally, he successfully merged Memminger with another community school that closed, working to create a bridge between two

communities and their students. His next role was as principal at nearby Sanders-Clyde Elementary Middle School in 2011.

Under his leadership at Sanders-Clyde, the school earned Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards in 2014 and achieved an all-time high Excellent growth rating and an Average middle school rating after consecutive years in the bottom ten percent of the state's school rankings. This was the first time in five years the school was out of the "At-Risk" category. In addition to academic gains, Dixon effectively built a positive school culture of high expectations for students, teachers, and stakeholders, as well as spearheaded the establishment of the school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model.

A visionary with demonstrated results, Dixon was recruited back to BCSD to serve as principal at Cainhoy Elementary Middle School before becoming principal at Philip Simmons Middle School (PSMS) in 2015. During his time at PSMS, Dixon directed all aspects of school operations while also managing the transition of students and staff into a new school facility. He also earned over \$100,000 in grants for technology, increased student support, and provided various new educational opportunities for students and teachers.

Dixon next served as principal at Philip Simmons High for two years before being promoted to BCSD's Chief of Secondary Schools in 2020 and then, Chief of Academics and Innovation (CAIO) in 2021. As CAIO, Dixon assisted in ensuring the district's vision, mission, and goals were achieved through the development, achievement, and maintenance of education programs and services. He also created, implemented, and evaluated a formative assessment system based on adopted state standards, and provided oversight and compliance for Gifted and Talented programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE), state and federal programs, special services, First Step, Head Start, and the Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (CERDEP).

"We are excited and grateful to have such a highly accomplished educator and innovative leader such as Dr. Dixon join our leadership team," said Superintendent Don Kennedy. "His diverse experience and vision for student, teacher, parent, and family support and success inside and outside of the classroom will undoubtedly help us accomplish our goal of all students reading on grade level by fifth grade by 2027."

An accomplished educator and leader, Dixon has been the recipient of many awards and accolades throughout his career including being selected as Berkeley County Secondary Principal of the Year (2017 and 2018), CCSD Elementary Learning Community Principal of the Year (2014), CofC Kappa Delta Pi Educational Achievement Awardee (2011), Lucille S. Whipper Minority Leadership Awardee (2000), U.S. Department of Education American Star of Teaching SC Recipient (2006), and St. Stephen Elementary School Teacher of the Year (2005).

Dixon earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the College of Charleston and a Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education: Learning and Emotional Disabilities from the University of Charleston. He holds a +30 certification in Elementary Administration from The Citadel, as well as earned an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration from South Carolina State University.

Dixon has also served as an adjunct professor at Trident Technical College, the College of Charleston, and The Citadel, and on several local and state boards including the South Carolina Aquarium Board of Directors and the Why Not Charleston Board of Directors. Throughout his career, Dixon has participated in numerous renowned professional development programs including the Harvard Leadership Institute (2011), Harvard School Turnaround Institute (2013), Columbia College Teachers College Writers' Institute (2014), the Racial Equity Institute (2020), and the Stanford University Graduate School of Education's EdLEADers Professional Certificate program (2023).

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.