

August 6, 2026

PUBLIC STATEMENT

The Region 12 Board of Education took action this evening to place Superintendent Donald Schels on leave with pay and without prejudice, and it has directed that the Administration place Mr. Croft, Mr. Perachi, and Mr. Cremeans on leave as well. This leave is with pay and without prejudice pending the results of an independent investigation of a complaint made by a district employee concerning communications among these four district leaders. Significantly, this action does not reflect any determination by the Board concerning the complaint or regarding these individuals. Rather, the Board has taken this action to assure that an investigation of the complaint may proceed with complete independence.

The Board acknowledges the importance of maintaining appropriate standards in the workplace. Given the need for an investigation that is both thorough and fair to all involved, the Board voted last week to retain the services of Attorney Elisa Bartlett, who is experienced in such matters. At this point, it is not possible to predict when the investigation will be complete, but the Board has asked the independent investigator through counsel that the investigation be completed expeditiously.

The Board also acknowledges the public's interest in this matter, both among employees and among community members. The Board will keep the school community informed regarding the status of the investigation and any related actions.