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New Poway Superintendent Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps to Start in April

Tonight at its March 7th meeting, the Board of Education approved the Superintendent contract for Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps. Dr. Kim-Phelps' first day as Superintendent of the Poway Unified School District will be April 3, 2017.

Many people in the audience spoke in support of Dr. Kim-Phelps during public comments, emphasizing Dr. Kim-Phelps' qualifications, leadership skills, and her commitment to children.

"I'm looking forward to starting the work as the new leader of the Poway Unified School District," said Dr. Kim-Phelps. "My past experiences have shaped me so that I'm poised to take on the challenges at Poway. I believe that I am coming in with the right intentions and with the right heart to make a difference in the lives of our children. People can count on me to be a hands-on, visible leader in our schools, District, and community events. I am committed to ensuring that every child experiences a world-class education and is prepared for college and career."

Among Dr. Kim-Phelps' short-term goals is to conduct a listening and learning tour to find out what has been working in PUSD schools and what challenges the District faces; then to develop a strategic plan so PUSD can continue to have schools that offer innovative programs to support college and career readiness.

In the long term, she wants to ensure the District puts into place systems of accountability and processes and procedures that allow the organization to operate effectively and efficiently; Dr. Kim-Phelps also wants to stabilize the budget so that the District can support innovative programs while providing competitive compensation for employees in order to retain the best staff.

At its February 14th meeting, the Board of Trustees named Dr. Kim-Phelps as their selection to lead the 3rd largest school district in San Diego County. After a nationwide search, Kim-Phelps was the finalist from a pool of 91 applicants.

“Dr. Kim-Phelps has the experience, qualifications, and vision PUSD needs. We are very fortunate to have found such an amazing leader, and we eagerly anticipate collaborating with her to make our district even more successful,” said Board President Michelle O’Connor-Ratcliff.

In her 25 years as an educator, she was an elementary and middle school teacher, a vice principal, and principal for 10 years, as well as Area Superintendent for four years serving 32 schools K-12, including leading four different high schools in San Diego County. Dr. Kim-Phelps is currently the Superintendent of Westminster School District in Orange County for nearly four years. She is also an adjunct professor at California State University Fullerton, where she has taught doctorate level coursework on Ethical and Legal Dimensions of Educational Leadership.

A long-time resident of the San Diego area, Dr. Kim-Phelps earned a Doctorate degree from San Diego State University, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University and a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, San Diego.

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