

August 21, 2023

Dear District Staff and Community Members:

The Richland School District 88A Board of Education has begun the search process for a new superintendent who will begin duties on July 1, 2024. The Board of Education would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Joe Simpkins for his outstanding commitment and service as our superintendent for the past seven years and wish him the best on his retirement at the end of the current school year.

The Board has selected Educational Leadership Solutions (EdLS), an educational search firm, to assist us in the superintendent search. The first step in this process is to create a New Superintendent Profile, using information gathered from an online survey. The New Superintendent Profile will guide us in the selection process.

We hope to receive your input. We would appreciate it if you would take about ten minutes to fill out the following survey: <https://bit.ly/88ASurvey>. This survey link will be accessible until September 15, 2023. The information on this survey will remain confidential, although a report will be developed and shared with the Board at a later date.

As we move forward, our most important consideration is securing the strongest candidate pool and ultimately the best person to lead our District. As the Search process proceeds, we will provide periodic updates and more information, as appropriate. Our hope is to have a new superintendent named before Winter Break, although the position doesn't officially begin until July 1, 2024.

The Board of Education looks forward to your support and assistance with this very important undertaking. Please feel free to contact the consultant, Dr. Gary Zabilka (gzabilka@edls.info) or Dr. Nick Polyak (npolyak@edls.info) if you have any questions or comments regarding the search.

We look forward to your input as we search for a new superintendent for Richland School District 88A.

Sincerely,

The Richland School District 88A Board of Education