



DR. DANA SMITH TAPPED TO BE SUPERINTENDENT

The Flossmoor School District 161 Board of Education is very pleased to announce the selection of **Dr. Dana Smith** as our new Superintendent. We expect to make the appointment of Dr. Dana Smith official at a special board meeting next week followed by a welcome reception with our entire community.

Dr. Smith is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Early Childhood and Elementary Education in Woodstock Community Unit School District 200, a PreK-12 district with a diverse population, located in northwest McHenry County. In his current role, he is responsible for the curricular and instructional focus of seven elementary schools, while leading major initiatives in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and 1:1 technology. Among his many accomplishments, it is here that he led the implementation of digital literacy and digital math curricula to support quality instruction and personalized learning.

With the assistance of BWP & Associates, the board conducted a national search with input from community surveys, focus groups and interviews. After an exhaustive process that yielded several very qualified candidates, the board selected Dr. Smith to lead the efforts of our district as we build a more collaborative, transparent and progressive approach to the education for all of our students.

Dr. Smith comes to us with a demonstrated record of success as an educator, curriculum expert and school administrator. Described by his colleagues as *“a collaborative leader, effective in communication; expert in curriculum, instruction, and educational program design; and skilled at organizational planning to deliver continuous growth and improvement”*, Dr. Smith brings to the SD161 community a balanced approach to building success through data driven, innovative programs and a respect for the collective efforts of teachers, administrators, parents and a diverse community partnership.

The school board recognizes that one of our most important functions is to hire the most qualified individual we can find to lead our district. We are excited about Dr. Smith and what he will bring to our learning community. We were looking for a strong leader who is not only a visionary, but has the ability to implement those visions. Dr. Smith is an educator who has the skills, intellect, and the collaborative nature to move our district forward. He is an excellent addition to our district and we look forward to getting him started. – Current School Board 161 Member, Michelle Hoereth,

“We are excited by this new direction. Dr. Smith brings a great deal of energy and curricular depth to our district and will be a great fit with our administrative team and the important work that they have done this year. Most of all, I am looking forward to the integrity that he will bring in driving forward the mission and vision of School District 161.” – Steven Paredes, School Board 161 President

Dr. Smith’s progressive educational career demonstrates a history of success and advancement beginning as a classroom teacher where he taught students in grades three through six in both general education and special education integrated classrooms. He began his administrative career as an assistant principal in Valley View School District 365U at Independence Elementary School and also served as the principal of Beverly Skoff Elementary School in the same district. After relocating north, his administrative career continued in Mundelein School District 75 where he was the principal of Mechanics Grove Elementary School and then internally promoted to Director of Teaching and Learning, focusing primarily on curriculum, instruction, and technology.

Dr. Smith is originally from our neighboring community, Park Forest, and is a graduate of Marian Catholic High School. He completed his undergraduate work at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies. He received a Master of Arts degree from North Central College in Naperville in the area of Educational Leadership and Administration and then went on to receive his Doctorate of Education with a major in Educational Leadership from DePaul University.

He and his fiancé will be relocating to the area and both are excited to engage as part of our learning fabric and community as a whole.

Once the Superintendent contract terms are tentatively agreed, the Open Meetings Act requires a 6-day posting of certain information before the contract can be formally approved. At the end of the posting period, the special board meeting to approve the contract and community reception date will be shared as soon as possible.