



NEWS FROM... THE SOLON SCHOOLS

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“The time has come to set our course for the future.”

Fred Bolden Named Superintendent of the Solon Schools

Citing his strong leadership skills, the Solon Board of Education this morning named Fred Bolden as Superintendent of the Solon Schools, approving a 3-year contract retroactive to August 1.

Mr. Bolden had been serving as interim superintendent since July 7 following the passing of long-time Superintendent Joseph Regano.

“Fred has been an integral member of our team for more than 20 years and has been a driving force in the continued success of the Solon Schools,” said Solon Board of Education President Julie Glavin. “Fred has a tremendous intellect and is extraordinarily solution-oriented. He is forward-thinking with an uncanny ability to see and understand the big picture. Fred has worked tirelessly to earn the respect and trust of the Board of Education, his colleagues, staff, families, students and the entire Solon Schools community.”

Mr. Bolden’s leadership has been critically important over the past year especially, Mrs. Glavin said. “We were all concerned when Joe’s health issues required him to take a medical leave from the district, but Fred immediately stepped up, took charge and never looked back,” she noted. “He has worked unimaginable hours keeping our district on task, moving forward and proactively managing operations through a global pandemic. The Board of Education has 100-percent confidence that Fred is ready, capable and eager to assume the leadership of the Solon City Schools as the new Superintendent.”

In keeping with the direction of the district’s Strategic Plan, the Board of Education had been looking ahead and planning for the transition to the next Superintendent for many years. The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the school district and the primary professional adviser to the Board, Mrs. Glavin explained, noting that the appointment of a new Superintendent is one of the most important functions the Board performs.

“We take this responsibility very seriously,” she said. “Losing Joe Regano has been a major blow to our school district and the entire community. He was a giant of a man and after 35 years of service

will be missed beyond words. Joe will always represent the heart and soul of the Solon Schools, but the time has come to set our course for the future.”

Mr. Bolden worked alongside Mr. Regano as a central office administrator for eight years. “Joe mentored Fred and believed he was the caring and capable educational leader most qualified to carry on his legacy,” Mrs. Glavin said. “Given the clear direction and goal in our strategic plan for a smooth transition that ensured continued excellence, it was always our intention that Fred spend as much time with Joe as possible to provide him with the opportunity to work with and learn from the best.”

Mr. Bolden thanked the Board members for their confidence in his ability to lead the district during these challenging times and into the future.

“It is not lost on me that I am following in the footsteps of the greatest educational leader in our district’s history, Joe Regano. I am humbled by the honor,” Mr. Bolden said. “It is my goal to continue to work tirelessly for students, parents, staff and the community so that we maintain the tradition of excellence that was established decades ago.

“In 1995 when I was a student teacher in 4th grade at Roxbury Elementary School, I knew that this was a special place; so much so, that when I had an opportunity to come back here to work at Parkside Elementary in 1997, I moved with my wife and young son here to Solon,” he continued. “I knew this was where I wanted to raise my family. I was not wrong. The years of success that we as a district have seen in academics, the arts, athletics and activities show that this is a special place for families to raise their children. This is my home, and I feel as though the people of this community are a part of my family.”

Mr. Regano and the Board of Education established a legacy of putting students first in our community, Mr. Bolden concluded. “We as a district have developed a strategic vision and plan to ensure that all students attain the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful, contributing and ethical citizens. That is who we are and that is who we will continue to be. Thank you for entrusting me with our most precious resource -- the students of the Solon Schools. I will not let you down.”

Mr. Bolden also leads by example in professional learning. He is completing his doctoral work in evaluation and measurement and has taught Instructional Technology, Professional Development and Human Behavior in Educational Leadership as an adjunct professor at Kent State University, Ashland University and John Carroll University.

Although both of his children are now Solon graduates, he has been an active parent volunteer, especially for Solon Music Parents, during the time his son and daughter were students in the district.

Mr. Bolden’s tenure in the Solon Schools spans nearly his entire career. He did his student teaching at Roxbury Elementary in 1995-96 and was hired as a full-time classroom teacher for the 1997-98 school year. He was a classroom teacher and instructional teacher leader, specializing in technology advancements, from 1996-2005. He was Assistant Principal at Orchard Middle School in 2005-06 and Principal at Lewis Elementary from 2006-12. Mr. Bolden joined the central office administrative team in 2012 as Director of Business and Personnel and was

promoted to Assistant Superintendent in 2016. During the 2019-20 school year, he served as Superintendent Pro Tempore while Mr. Regano was on medical leave.