

Cranford Board of Education Announces New Superintendent of Schools

March 27, 2017

After an extensive search, the Cranford Board of Education is excited to announce Dr. Scott Rubin as its new Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2017. This became official during the Board's regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 27, 2017, in which the Board unanimously voted to affirm Dr. Rubin's appointment, extending him a five year contract. This was a late addition to the Board's agenda following approval from the Union County Superintendent's Office on Friday, March 24, 2017, which was after the Board's original agenda which was made public on March 23, 2017.

The Board, joined by current Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, introduced Dr. Rubin during Monday's meeting. Dr. Rubin comes to Cranford having served almost three years as Superintendent of Schools for the East Hanover Township School District. Dr. Rubin holds a B.A. in English from Rutgers University as well as an Ed.M in Educational Administration and an Ed.D. in Urban Leadership, both from Kean University. Dr. Rubin began his career in education in 1997 with the Elizabeth School District as an elementary school teacher. In 2001, Dr. Rubin was selected for the New Jersey Department of Education's Technology Fellowship: Mentoring and Modeling as the representative for Union County. In this capacity, he spent the year assisting educators throughout New Jersey in integrating best technology practices. From 2002-2014, Dr. Rubin worked at the Union County Vocational-Technical School District in several capacities. This included teaching information technology, acting as teaching supervisor, being named founding principal for the Academy for Performing Arts (APA), and, subsequently, serving simultaneously as the principal of the Academy for Allied Health Sciences and APA.

Upon being appointed, Dr. Rubin stated, "I look forward to partnering with the Board, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, students and all community members to determine how I can best assist the District in enhancing and supporting Cranford's already outstanding legacy and commitment to excellence. Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I am very proud and excited to be a part of the Cranford family."

The District has been led by Dr. Birnbaum since 2015. Board President Kurt Petschow commented that, "Because of Dr. Birnbaum's strong leadership and dedication to Cranford's schools, it afforded the Board of Education Superintendent Search Committee the opportunity to complete an exhaustive and comprehensive search for the next leader of this great District." Petschow further commented, "The selection process included multiple rounds of interviews and a site visit to ensure this was realized." Lisa Carbone, Board Vice President, noted, "Dr. Birnbaum has committed to working closely with Dr. Rubin as he joins the District. A formal transition plan will be created over the next several weeks to ensure a smooth transition of leadership."

Regarding Dr. Rubin's appointment, Dr. Birnbaum expressed that, "During my time in Cranford, I have come to realize what a wonderful place Cranford is. Although I am sad to be leaving, I am happy to know that Dr. Rubin will be joining the Cranford team. I am confident that he will not only carry forth traditions and current initiatives but also take Cranford to even greater levels."

Dr. Birnbaum highlighted the effort put forth during the selection process. "The Board of Education Superintendent Search Committee went above and beyond in terms of their

dedication to bring only the most qualified candidates before the entire Board for consideration.” In addition to Carbone and Petschow, the search committee was also comprised of Daniel DeMarco and Nicole Sherrin Kessler. Ms. Sherrin Kessler served as the chair for the search committee and expressed her enthusiasm for Dr. Rubin, stating, “We are so grateful that Dr. Rubin is bringing his expertise and innovative practices to support our talented faculty in ensuring an exceptional education for all of our children.”

Dr. Birnbaum will remain Interim Superintendent of Schools through June 30, 2017. “We want to thank Dr. Birnbaum for her strong leadership and her commitment to the continued growth of our great District. We look forward to Dr. Rubin continuing the great work of the District,” Petschow said.

Cranford Mayor, Thomas Hannen, Jr. stated, “I am excited to learn of Dr. Rubin’s appointment. The Cranford Township Committee looks forward to working with Dr. Rubin and continuing to build upon the Township’s partnership with the Cranford Board of Education to do what is best for the children and residents of Cranford.”

Recently, Cranford took the number one position in Union County and the number nine spot in the State in New Jersey Family’s April issue, New Jersey’s Best Towns for Families 2017. The Board is particularly proud of this recognition as one of the factors used to rank municipalities was school district quality.