



For Immediate Release

March 4, 2021

Message on Superintendent Hiring

The Petaluma Joint Union High School District (Petaluma City Schools) Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce that at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 9th **we will be recommending** the appointment of Matthew Harris to the position of Superintendent starting in the 2021-2022 school year. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to elevate a resident of Petaluma and father of Petaluma City School students to this position overseeing Petaluma's largest school district.

As a Board, we are constantly evaluating our administrators for the leadership capabilities. We know Matthew Harris. As assistant superintendent, Matthew has gone through the COVID-19 pandemic and power shut-offs with us, serving the district's talented personnel through the hardest times. As a principal, he revitalized McKinley School and founded Petaluma Accelerated Charter School. In all of his roles with Petaluma City Schools, we have seen him thrive; he works tirelessly to make all stakeholders feel heard while never wavering in his commitment to serve all students. He is undoubtedly respected throughout the district and community because of his ability to advocate for the needs of the young people we serve. Students, their success, and their wellbeing are what drive him.

We have heard from the community more than ever in recent years. Between our campaign events, board listening sessions, office hours on school sites, dozens of hours of public comment in this last year alone, and countless emails, we are confident that we have heard the educational priorities that are most important to our community, and the leadership qualities that will help us reach them. Matthew embodies these priorities and qualities. As a trilingual educator with a history of focusing on students whose needs are the hardest to meet, Matthew will push the district forward in ways that align with this board's focus on equity, innovation, and collaboration.

The Board of Trustees does not take our charge to hire a new superintendent lightly and we firmly believe that Matthew Harris exemplifies the qualities we are seeking in our next Superintendent.

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