



NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Melissa Friez Named Next Superintendent of North Allegheny School District

The North Allegheny School District has appointed Dr. Melissa Friez as its next Superintendent effective July 1, 2021. The Board of School Directors voted to approve Dr. Friez's appointment at the October 28, 2020, Board meeting. Dr. Friez joined the North Allegheny School District in 2019 as the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education.

"While much has changed in the year since I joined North Allegheny School District, one thing remains – I'm extremely honored to be part of this great District," Dr. Friez said. "I look forward to working with students, staff, faculty, Board, alumni, and the broader community. The heart of my work will be focused on meeting the needs of our students by cultivating an inclusive school community that guides the District through the challenging times ahead."

Acting Superintendent Dr. Patrick O'Toole will remain with the District through June 30, 2021. Dr. Friez succeeds Dr. Robert Scherrer who was appointed the Executive Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in July 2020.

"I've been impressed with Dr. Friez since I joined the District in July. Her appointments are the result of much hard work and passion for the development and learning of all students and staff throughout her career," said Dr. O'Toole. "Dr. Friez will be fortunate to work with an extremely talented staff and leadership team. I will continue to work with Dr. Friez and the Executive Council on our District leadership for 2020-2021 as we also prepare for the transition in July."

Dr. Friez has a distinguished career in education. Before joining North Allegheny, Dr. Friez spent more than a decade at Pittsburgh Public Schools where she served as an Assistant Superintendent and principal at her alma mater, Taylor Allderdice. During her time at Allderdice, Dr. Friez managed a \$13-million-dollar site-based budget for 1,600 students and over 130 staff members. Dr. Friez served as a Title IX coordinator and has received extensive training in both Title IX and diversity and inclusion practices. Additionally, she managed the Gender Inclusive School policy on behalf of PPS. During her tenure, her school received a Title I Distinguished School award and was named the Pennsylvania High School Student Assistance Program of the Year.

"Dr. Friez personifies the qualities we looked for in selecting a new superintendent," said Richard McClure, president of North Allegheny Board of School Directors. "While our search took us across the region and country, Dr. Friez stood out from the very beginning as a strong, compassionate leader who always places the well-being of students, staff, and the larger North Allegheny community at the heart of all she does."

Dr. Friez received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master's degree in Secondary English Education from Duquesne University, K-12 Principal Certification from Carlow University, and obtained her Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility from the University of Pittsburgh where she earned her Doctoral Degree in Administrative and Policy Studies. Dr. Friez has lived in the Pittsburgh region her entire life and currently resides in Squirrel Hill with her husband, Brandon, their two sons, Brandon and Alexander, and dog Hamilton.

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