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NMCUSD Board of Education Reaches Separation Agreement with Superintendent

CASTROVILLE, CA — At its August 24 meeting, the North Monterey County Unified School District Board of Education approved a mutual separation agreement with Superintendent Kari Yeater.

Also at the meeting, the board accepted and approved a “satisfactory or better” job evaluation of the superintendent for the 2022-23 school year and a contractually required pay raise. Per the separation agreement, the district will buy out 12 months based on the terms of Yeater’s employment contract and she will step down effective August 31, 2023.

“We would like to thank Superintendent Yeater for 18 years of service to our school district community and 12 years as superintendent,” said Elizabeth Samuels, Board President. “Over that time, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership in navigating complex negotiations and managing the challenges posed by the pandemic. We wish her the very best.”

Reflecting on her 12 years as NMCUSD superintendent, Yeater cited successes, including:

- The development of a multitude of career pathway certifications and dual enrollment opportunities
- The district’s long-term arts integration partnership with the Kennedy Center
- The expansion of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math into all grade levels
- The district’s Community Schools model, which provides a multitude of wraparound services for students and families
- An expanded parent education and parent ambassador program
- An award-winning farm-to-table wellness approach championed by the district’s child nutrition service team

“My heart will always hold a special place for North Monterey County USD,” said Yeater. “I am truly in awe of our students. They are bright, future leaders who are kind, talented, and thoughtful, and who will be a voice in guiding the parents, staff, and community members in what they want to see in their school community. I encourage everyone to work together with the Board of Education during this transition to ensure that our North Monterey County students receive support, have a voice, and truly thrive.”

The board will work with the superintendent of the Monterey County Office of Education to identify and select an interim superintendent for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. Mary Dawson, current Associate Superintendent for Business Services, will serve as the acting superintendent for the time being. The board will also immediately begin the process to find the next permanent superintendent of NMCUSD. There will be numerous opportunities for community members to engage in this important process.

“We are united as a board in seeking to protect both our governance role and the professional responsibility of the superintendent for managing the school district,” said Samuels. “This will be a significant point of focus for the board moving forward. Further, we want to reiterate our dedication to providing the best possible education for our students, fostering an environment of trust and working collaboratively to address concerns and implement positive changes throughout our school district.”

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