



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway Unified Superintendent Dr. Don Phillips Announces Retirement Effective June 30, 2010

PUSD Board of Education Announces Unanimous Intention to Formally Appoint Dr. John Collins as Superintendent Effective July 1, 2010

At the February 8, 2010, Poway Unified School Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Don Phillips announced his retirement from Poway Unified, effective at the end of the school year, on June 30, 2010. Poway Unified has a nationwide reputation for excellence, with 37 schools and 33,450 students in the 26th largest school district in the state of California.

Dr. Phillips said, "This is my ninth year in Poway Unified and 20th year as a superintendent, after almost 40 years in education. I am very honored to have served as superintendent of this truly exceptional educational system. I deeply admire the passion and commitment of the PUSD community to provide the expertise, nurturing, and support so vital to opening a world of opportunities for students. I cannot help but have mixed feelings about retiring, but I also look forward to spending more time with my family and having a new set of challenges. I will clearly miss working with the talented and dedicated staff of Poway Unified School District after June 30th. In the meantime, we have a lot of important work ahead!"

PUSD Board President Todd Gutschow stated, "On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to commend Don Phillips for his vision of 'college readiness for all - the gateway to our children's future'. Don consistently focused on creating an academic environment where students could grow and gain success. His personnel and management skills, and his ability to problem-solve and communicate effectively with parents, staff, and the PUSD community increased our capacity to provide for students to succeed."

Following Dr. Phillips' announcement, PUSD Board President Todd Gutschow announced the Board's unanimous intention to formally appoint Dr. John Collins, PUSD Deputy Superintendent, as the new superintendent, effective July 1, 2010.

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"The Board of Education is pleased to announce our intention to formally appoint Dr. Collins as Superintendent, effective July 1, 2010. This will occur at the Special Board Meeting on February 22, 2010. Dr. Collins has demonstrated strong leadership in all areas of the District, and will bring continuity to the mission and focus of the school district. The Poway Unified School District is a place where students have the opportunity to grow, learn, and flourish as young people prepare for their future. Dr. Collins believes in maximizing these opportunities for learning and for encouraging academic achievement and student success. The Board is very pleased to have selected Dr. Collins as our next Poway Unified Superintendent," said Board President Todd Gutschow.

Dr. Collins is presently PUSD Deputy Superintendent, a position he has held for the past nine years, and has been an administrator in PUSD since 1989. Between 1996 and 2001, Dr. Collins served as an assistant/associate superintendent leading the District's Learning Support Services division. Prior to his assignment at the district office, he served as a principal of Rancho Bernardo High School, and as assistant principal at Rancho Bernardo High School and Twin Peaks Middle School. Dr. Collins has served as Poway Unified's Chief Business Officer since 2003. He has led the management of the *Building for Success* program, which modernized 24 schools and built seven new schools in PUSD, and serves as a member of the PUSD/Poway Federation of Teachers Negotiation Team.

Dr. Collins earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the joint doctoral program of University of California at San Diego/San Diego State University/California State University of San Marcos in May 2008. He holds a Masters in Education Administration from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from San Diego State University where he graduated with honors and distinction.

In 2008, Dr. Collins received a Central Office Administrator of the Year Award from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), San Diego and Imperial counties, Region 9. He was inducted into the College Bound San Diego African American Hall of Education in 2007. The Association of Poway School Managers has presented Dr. Collins with recognitions for outstanding contributions as deputy superintendent in 2001, 2004, and 2006. He was also recognized with a PTA Honorary Service Award when he was principal of Rancho Bernardo High School in 1995.

"I consider it a tremendous honor to have received the Board's support and vote of confidence in appointing me to follow Dr. Phillips as superintendent of this great school district," Dr. Collins said. "Although public education in California is facing the most devastating financial crisis I can remember, I am confident that all members of the PUSD community will work collaboratively to survive this crisis while providing the best education possible for our students. I look forward to providing the leadership necessary for our students, staff, parents, and community to make this happen."

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