



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Board of Education Unanimously Grants Three-Year Contract to Superintendent Otott

In a unanimous vote, the Paulding County Board of Education has granted Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott a three-year contract. The new contract, approved in August and retroactive to July 1, 2019 (the start of the district's fiscal year) will run through June 30, 2022.

"The Board is proud of the job Dr. Otott is doing," said Board Chairman Jeff Fuller. "There are a lot of really good things happening right now – and over the past year or so – that Dr. Otott has been a key part of. You can see the energy and momentum as academic achievement is improving. Our Literacy and STEM initiatives are boosting test scores on the Milestones assessment and helping our graduation rate continue to improve year over year. We are almost at a 90 percent graduation rate. Also, Dr. Otott has implemented effective measures to help ensure our district remains a safe learning environment for all students and staff."

Since being hired as superintendent in late 2017, Dr. Otott has seen the Paulding County School District grow to be the 12th largest public school system in Georgia. He has been proactive in implementing programs and initiatives to improve Paulding County's 33 schools. This year, Paulding County schools as a district exceeded the state average in 22 of 24 subject areas on the Georgia Milestones assessment. The district's 2018 graduation rate topped 86 percent and is expected to approach 90 percent in 2019 based on the district's own internal estimate, well above the state average graduation rate.

Other items of note during Dr. Otott's tenure include:

- Hiring two District Safety Officers, expanding the district's relationship with the Paulding Sheriff's Office, and implementing more than \$1 million in safety and security enhancements at schools district-wide.
- Implementing a Literacy By Design initiative to improve reading skills at 18 schools throughout the district utilizing a \$4.5 million grant from the state.
- Increasing the focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), including adding STEM teachers at the elementary level and preparing for the opening of the Hiram High School Academy of Computer Science and Technology in 2020.



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- Opening the Paulding County College and Career Academy in 2019.
- Receiving full district-wide accreditation from AdvancEd for five years.
- Conducting a series of Community Conversations across the county to gather public feedback that led to the development of an E-SPLOST proposal to address growth and capacity needs. The E-SPLOST referendum will be held Nov. 5, 2019.
- Working with the Board of Education to craft a 2019-2020 budget that provides a fiscally responsible millage rate reduction, and at the same time provides a pay increase for district employees.

“I am humbled and excited to continue to serve our students, staff and community,” said Dr. Otott. “I have been blessed to work and live in this community for nearly 30 years and am proud of the achievements of our students, staff, and district. We will continue to focus on academic achievement and meeting our district vision to prepare all students for today and tomorrow.”

Reflecting on the recent five-year renewal of the district’s accreditation, Mr. Fuller added, “I encourage anyone who lives in Paulding County to read the report from the accrediting agency [AdvancEd] that visited our school district last fall. The team that came to PCSD looked at mounds of data, visited numerous schools, and interviewed dozens of parents, students and staff members. The report they provided us this spring tells the story of a school district that is excelling at a high level. Our school board wants to sustain that success and continue elevating performance, and we believe Dr. Otott is the right person get us there.”