

Solvang School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6 2022

Solvang, CA – the Solvang School District is poised to select a new superintendent at its board meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Solvang School.

On the agenda is a contract proposal for the proposed new superintendent, Sierra Loughridge. In recent months, the district has been searching to fill the post currently held by Dr. Steven Seaford who is retiring after seven (7) years as the district leader. Ms. Loughridge was unanimously selected as the new superintendent by its board of trustees following final interviews held last month.

The board is extremely pleased and confident in its decision to welcome Ms. Loughridge to the district. Ms. Loughridge is committed to meeting the needs of all Solvang School students.

The trustees employed a search team, Leadership Associates, to seek the next leader of the district. The firm conducted interviews with administrators and staff, parents, and district stakeholders to prepare the plan to seek a new superintendent.

Ms. Loughridge is currently the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the Santa Barbara Unified School District where she oversees the academic programming and professional learning for preschool through high school across the district to ensure improved student outcomes. Ms. Loughridge was tasked with improving language, literacy, and mathematics achievement, supporting college and career readiness and pathways, supporting Dual Language Immersion, GATE, Dyslexia intervention, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), independent study, after school preschool, STEAM and leading coaches, instructional leads, and principals at all Santa Barbara Unified sites.

Her resume also boasts Director of Elementary Education at the Santa Barbara Unified School District for three (3) years as well as Principal of the high-achieving Washington Elementary in Santa Barbara for four (4) years.

Ms. Loughridge graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara and began her career with Teach for America in 2005, where she taught in Brooklyn and Harlem and earned a Master's in Science and Teaching from Pace University, in New York. Additionally, Ms. Loughridge earned a Master's in Education Administration with Distinction from California State University, Northridge. She then returned to Santa Barbara where she became the After School Coordinator for the district before she was offered a position as principal, then promoted to Director of Elementary and Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. In all of these roles, the success of every child has been her guiding principle.

Ms. Loughridge is excited about moving to the area and looking forward to getting to know the community. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, swimming, traveling, and entertaining. Ms. Loughridge loves being an “Auntie” and is proud of her nephew heading to college next year, her niece’s burgeoning basketball skills, and her nephew’s all-star baseball ability.

Ms. Loughridge considers it a privilege to collaborate with the Board to lead the dedicated and professional staff of Solvang and is looking forward to partnering with the families and community around the shared vision of cultivating thriving students through academic rigor, critical thinking, project-based learning, community partnerships, in a safe and caring dynamic learning environment.

Upon approval of her contract by the board, Ms. Loughridge will begin serving the Solvang district on July 1, 2022.