



Coatesville Area School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2400

January 12, 2023

Dear Coatesville Area School District,

It is my pleasure to announce that on January 17, the Coatesville Area School District Board of Directors is expected to vote to appoint Dr. Catherine Van Vooren as its next superintendent of schools. Dr. Van Vooren is currently Director of Student Services for the School District of Springfield Township.

The Board will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 17 at Coatesville Area Senior High School to vote on the appointment. A brief reception, open to the public, will follow. Dr. Van Vooren is expected to begin as superintendent in Coatesville no later than February 27.

Dr. Van Vooren is an accomplished school administrator with experience in the classroom, the school leadership level, and in central office. We are extremely pleased to welcome a superintendent with her diverse experience and background. We believe that her passion in providing equitable growth and sound learning environments will result in increased opportunities for student and staff success.

Dr. Van Vooren has worked in the School District of Springfield Township since 2016 where she also served as principal of Enfield Elementary School. Previously, she spent 10 years in the Coatesville Area School District as a principal, assistant principal, and supervisor of special education.

The District received more than 30 applications for the position from a diverse candidate pool of superintendents, assistant superintendents and life-long educators in a search process led by the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Over a period of two months, the Board completed rigorous interviews to determine the degree of fit between the community's criteria and the candidates' professional experiences. You can read more about Dr. Van Vooren's background in the CASD press release attached below.

The Board would like to publicly thank Dr. Richard Dunlap, who has been serving as interim superintendent since the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, and prior to that as substitute superintendent since March, 2022. Dunlap retired as superintendent of the Upper Darby School District in 2016. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Dunlap for his steady, calm, and experienced leadership over the last year. He has worked extraordinarily hard to move the district forward. He is a man of great integrity and work ethic and has continued to focus on changes that will benefit the students of Coatesville.

Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community members who shared their thoughts to help us build a candidate profile for the next superintendent. We very much look forward to welcoming Dr. Van Vooren as superintendent of schools.

Sincerely,
Rob Fisher

CASD School Board President, on behalf of the CASD School Board

School Board President: Robert J. Fisher



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Coatesville Area School Board to Appoint Next Superintendent of Schools

The Coatesville Area School District (CASD) Board of Directors will vote on January 17 on the appointment of Dr. Catherine Van Vooren as its next superintendent of schools. Dr. Van Vooren is currently Director of Student Services for the School District of Springfield Township. She is expected to begin as superintendent in Coatesville no later than February 27.

The Board will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 17 at Coatesville Area Senior High School. Following the expected approval, a brief welcome reception, open to the public, will be held.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome a superintendent with Dr. Van Vooren’s diverse experience and background,” said Robert Fisher, President of the Coatesville Area School Board. “We believe that her passion in providing equitable growth and sound learning environments will result in increased opportunities for student and staff success.”

Previously, Van Vooren spent 10 years in the Coatesville Area School District as a principal, assistant principal, and supervisor of special education. Dr. Van Vooren has worked in the School District of Springfield Township since 2016 where she also served as principal of Enfield Elementary School.

“Dr. Van Vooren is an accomplished school administrator with experience in the classroom, at the school building level and in central office,” Fisher continued. “Dr. Van Vooren’s success as a director of student services and former principal have given her the skills to be a successful district leader. We are eager to welcome her back to the Coatesville Area School District,” said Fisher.

“I am so very honored and excited for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of the Coatesville Area School District,” said Dr. Van Vooren. “Working together, we will build on the district’s tradition of excellence and propel CASD forward by being innovative, student-centered and mission driven. I look forward to working alongside our educators, students, families and community as we build on successful practices and plan strategically for the future of our students. I believe it is critical that every student feels physically and emotionally safe at school, secure in the knowledge that every adult in this district is invested in their success and well-being. In doing this, we must provide curriculum and instruction that is personalized and culturally responsive, holding ourselves and each other accountable for making a difference in the lives of our students.”

Dr. Van Vooren received her undergraduate degree in science from University of Pittsburgh, her master’s degree in educational leadership from Immaculata University and her doctorate in educational leadership and management from Drexel University.

Van Vooren will be replacing Dr. Richard Dunlap, who has been serving as interim superintendent since the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, and prior to that as substitute superintendent since March, 2022. Dunlap retired as superintendent of the Upper Darby School District in 2016.

“We are extremely grateful to Dr. Dunlap for his steady, calm, and experienced leadership over the last year,” said Fisher. “Dr. Dunlap has worked extraordinarily hard to move the district forward. He is a man of great integrity and work ethic, and has continued to focus on changes that will benefit the students of Coatesville.”

The district received more than 30 applications for the position from a diverse candidate pool of superintendents, assistant superintendents and life-long educators in a search process led by the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Ten candidates were invited for a first-round interview; of those ten candidates, four advanced to second round interviews, and two were chosen for the third and final round of interviews.

During the past two months, the Board completed rigorous interviews to determine the degree of fit between the community’s criteria and the candidates’ professional experiences. The interview process included in-depth questions, which were developed from an analysis of stakeholder priorities gathered through focus groups and a survey to parents, staff and the community-at-large. Submission of an entry plan and a detailed presentation to address the district’s most pressing issues were also key components of the interview process.

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Dr. Catherine Van Vooren