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For Immediate Release

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Bucks County Intermediate Unit

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## **Pennsbury School District Superintendent of Schools Position Update**

The Pennsbury Board of School Directors is pleased to announce **Dr. Thomas Smith** as the finalist candidate for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Pennsbury School District.

This announcement follows an extensive search process facilitated by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU). In January 2021, the Board sought feedback on traits and characteristics the Pennsbury Community is looking for in a new Superintendent by conducting a community survey. More than 1100 responses were received from the survey, providing goals, priorities, and other feedback for the Board to consider when choosing the next Superintendent. The Board then conducted a comprehensive search process working with the Bucks IU and guided by the community's comments. The Board reports that 22 applications were received for the position, and ten candidates were initially selected for "meet and greet" interviews. Five candidates then advanced to a wide-ranging second round interview. A single candidate, Dr. Thomas Smith, then moved forward to a comprehensive and robust final interview with the Board.

### **Community Forum**

**The Pennsbury Board of School Directors invites all community members to meet Dr. Smith on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at a community forum to be held at Keller Hall at Pennsbury High School West located at 608 S Olds Blvd, Fairless Hills, PA from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.** The forum will be moderated by Dr. Mark Hoffman, Executive Director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

**Input from residents is appreciated.** Community members are invited to submit up to two (2) questions for Dr. Smith through the following website: <https://Go.BucksIU.org/Pennsbury> Questions will be accepted until midnight on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Dr. Hoffman will categorize the questions by theme and ask them directly to Dr. Smith at the forum. The Board has chosen this format in order to ensure that the maximum number of questions can be asked in the time allotted.

## **Bucks County Intermediate Unit**

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Due to COVID mitigation efforts, indoor seating capacity is limited, and will be available on a first-come first served basis. Six-foot social distancing is required at all times while inside the building and all individuals entering the building must wear a face covering. Please check the school district website for information to sign up to attend the event in person. In order to allow maximum community participation, the event will also be live-streamed and recorded. More information on accessing a live-stream or recording of the event will be available on the school district website closer to the date of the event.

### **Dr. Thomas Smith**



Upon being named as the finalist candidate, Dr. Thomas Smith stated, “I am very excited to join the Pennsbury School community. Pennsbury has a strong reputation and from the comprehensive interview experience with the Board, I know that we share the same vision of providing a world-class education for Pennsbury students. I look forward to working very hard for the community and partnering with the outstanding staff in Pennsbury to promote student achievement in academics, the arts, activities, and athletics.”

### **Dr. Smith’s Experience and Educational Background**

Dr. Smith has worked as a teacher, coach, and at all levels of administration in both small and large school districts. He currently serves as Superintendent at Hopewell Valley Regional School District located in Pennington, NJ. He also teaches graduate-level courses in education.

Dr. Smith holds a bachelor’s degree in Communications, two master’s degrees in education from The College of New Jersey, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Seton Hall University. He serves as the president of the Mercer County Administrators Association for the past seven years and was named Mercer County Superintendent of Year in 2018. Dr. Smith’s recent work has focused on social-emotional learning and providing mental health programs for students. His other efforts include improving the cultural competency of staff and students and improving academic opportunities for all students. He lives with his wife and three children in Allentown, NJ.

**The Board intends to vote to name Dr. Smith to the position of Superintendent at its next regularly scheduled school board meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 7:30 pm, subject to the execution of a mutually acceptable contract of employment.**

The Board thanks the community for its involvement in this important process. Once approved by the Board, Dr. Smith is anticipated to begin his service on or before August 1, 2021.