March 7, 2022

Administrative Announcement

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the retirement of Director of Secondary Schools Rick Henry, effective June 30, 2022, pending school board approval. This is Henry’s tenth year with Lawrence Public Schools. He will retire with 34 years of service to public education.

“The district has relied on Rick’s expertise and experience in a variety of roles, and he has always risen to the challenge. He has provided leadership and guidance for the continued professional development and growth of our secondary building administrators. He has worked with our teaching and support staff to assist both adolescent and adult learners in achieving at high levels, earning their high school diploma or GED, and preparing for success in college and their chosen career fields,” said Dr. Lewis. “Rick is a dedicated and compassionate public servant. I hope that he fully enjoys retirement.”

Henry joined the district in 2012 as a curriculum specialist in the area of career and technical education. He served four years as director of adult education and student services. In this role, he had oversight of adult basic education and English as a Second Language services, GED preparation, the Lawrence Diploma-Completion and Suspension Alternative Programs, and the day school operated in partnership with Douglas County Youth Services at the Northeast Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Henry became director of high school support, and later, director of secondary schools, in 2017.

Prior to joining USD 497, Henry served 24 years as an educator and administrator in Kansas. He was principal of Kingman High School for 14 years, Syracuse Junior/Senior High for four years, and assistant principal and athletic director of Caney Junior/Senior High for a year. He also taught high school language arts for five years in Buhler. Henry earned an associate’s degree at Hutchinson Community College, his bachelor’s at the University of Kansas, and a master’s at Wichita State University.

“I have appreciated the opportunity to learn and grow with so many colleagues in the Lawrence Public School community, and I will miss the relationships I’ve shared during my time here. I especially appreciate the talented group of secondary administrators with whom I have worked closely and for whom I have a great deal of respect. I am just as thankful for the opportunities I’ve had to work with so many dedicated educators in all secondary and adult education buildings,” said Henry.

“I also want to thank my colleagues at the district’s Educational Support Center. They have taught me so much about not only education but leadership as well. I will always be indebted to you. All my best to LPS and the community of Lawrence in the years to come!” he added.

The district will evaluate all staffing decisions as part of the Lawrence Board of Education's current budget planning process.

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