



Minnetonka Public Schools
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Dear Minnetonka Schools Community,

This morning, Monday, September 27, 2021, the Minnetonka School Board unanimously voted to appoint Dr. John Odom to a 12-month term on the School Board to fill the position created by the resignation of Board Member Christine Ritchie. Dr. Odom will be sworn in and will assume his Board seat on October 28, 2021.

Dr. Odom will bring a wealth of knowledge and District experience to the role. He is a practicing local physician who is a business owner, volunteer, coach, mentor and educator. His children all attended and graduated from Minnetonka Public Schools. He has served as a Board Member for Youthworks, was a Minnetonka Football Coach and was a mentor for the Men of Color student organization at MHS for 15 years. Dr. Odom's submitted references all shared the incredible value he could add to the Board with his approach to valuing relationships, his compassion and respect for individuals, his ability to create vision, his perseverance and his humility.

Dr. Odom's 12-month term will be followed by a Special Election to fill out the remainder of Christine Ritchie's term, which ends December 31, 2023.

The process for appointing the new member was as follows, with all Special Meetings related to this appointment open to the public:

- 8/16/21: Announcement of the appointment process and timeline
- 8/17/21-9/7/21: Receipt of resumes, letters of intent and written references
- 9/7/21: Deadline for submission of applications
- 9/8/21-9/12/21: Board Members' individual review of applications and written references
- 9/9/21: Special Meeting to decide process of Board due diligence
- 9/9/21: Board subcommittee assigned to develop interview questions
- 9/13/21: Special Meeting to invite applicants for interviews
- 9/20/21-9/21/21: Applicant interviews conducted
- 9/24/21-9/27/21: Board due diligence on applicants after interviews, including review of

resumes, review of written references and review of interview answers

9/27/21: Special Meeting to select new Board Member

At the 9/27/21 Special School Board Meeting, the six sitting Board Members each put forth two applicants for consideration for the Board appointment. A motion was then made to select Dr. John Odom—from among the applicants put forth—to fill the vacant seat. A discussion followed, with each Board Member stating their thoughts on reasons to support Dr. Odom or other applicants. A vote resulted in the unanimous selection of Dr. Odom. He will be sworn in as a new Board Member at a Special Meeting (prior to the School Board Study Session) on October 28, 2021.

The Board would like to thank all seven applicants for the Board appointment for their willingness to serve the community.

Chris Vitale
Chair, Minnetonka School Board