

**Amelia County School Board**  
16410 Otterburn Rd  
Amelia Court House, VA 23002

**RELEASE DATE**

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

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## **PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*For more information contact: Glen B. Wilkerson, School Board Chairman*

Amelia County School Board  
(804) 561-2621

### **AMELIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD SELECTS DR. LORENA P. HARPER AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT**

The Amelia County School Board voted unanimously Thursday, January 31, 2019 to hire **Dr. Lorena Harper** as the district's next Superintendent effective on March 18, 2019. Interim Superintendent David Smith will assist with the transition for a one-month period. Harper and the Board have reached the terms of the contract and finalized the agreement. Dr. Harper will join the School Board Meeting Friday, February 15, 2019 from 9 am to 3 pm to begin work on the system-wide budget.

"We were very excited to have an excellent field of 25 candidates for the Superintendent position. With the assistance of a staff, parent and community member survey team, we interviewed several candidates and the field was narrowed to four finalists." Board Chairman Glen Wilkerson said. "We like all four finalists, but Dr. Harper emerged as the right fit at the right time for our system."

Dr. Harper, or Lori, will be leaving her current position as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Federal Programs with the Essex County School District, Essex, Virginia which she held since 2013.

Her diverse background brings to us a wide range of administration, finance, and instruction which will take our schools to the next level. Her leadership and administration experience come from various directorships including Director of NASA JJCDC during which time she received an award for the new opening program budget. Dr. Harper also served as principal at the high school and elementary levels.

Lori has been involved with instructional programs for special education, English as a Second Language (ESL), Family Development Curriculum (FDC), and standard learning programs. She is a contributor for Virginia School Consortium for Learning (VaSCL), an educational consortium of more than sixty-five Virginia public schools, which provides effective professional collaboration and high-quality professional development to improve instruction and increase student achievement.

Dr. Harper's mission statement for Amelia County Schools is to inspire life-long learners, provide varied educational experiences, foster continuous growth by creating new and empowering connections, and develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for all students, teachers and employees. Dr. Harper continues. "I believe our students are our future. Great teachers build relationships with students. The best educators are those who are professional learners. Teamwork builds a community. Consistency promotes fairness and builds trust. Exemplary leaders are dedicated, action-oriented, passionate about education, and all in."

Join us in welcoming Dr. Harper to Amelia County Schools. A Meet and Greet meeting for the administration and staff is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the School Board office. We are planning a formal Meet and Greet meeting for the community at large in the near future.