



PRESS RELEASE

Tracey H. Lewis, Ed.D., Director of Communications
P.O. Box 364
Dobson, North Carolina 27017
336/386-8211 Cell: 336/401-1873 Fax: 336/386-4756
E-Mail: lewist@surry.k12.nc.us

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Dr. Jeff Tunstall Announces Retirement June 30, 2019

The Surry County Board of Education would like to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey C. Tunstall, Surry County Schools Assistant Superintendent, who announced his retirement effective June 30, 2019.

Dr. Tunstall worked two years in western Pennsylvania for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit before moving to North Carolina in 1990, where he taught Math and Science for the Davidson County Schools. In 1995, he moved to Surry County to teach Math and Science, and coach swimming for the Mount Airy City Schools. In 2003, he made the transition from classroom teacher to administrator, becoming the assistant principal at Copeland Elementary School. He then became principal at Cedar Ridge Elementary in 2005. Since 2007, Dr. Tunstall has served in the Central Office as Director of Accountability, Director of Student Services and Technology, and then as Assistant Superintendent beginning in 2014.

Highly respected throughout the Surry County School System by administrators and teachers, in his role as Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Tunstall has assisted and supported principals and assistant principals with student services issues. He has also worked with data managers, nurses, social workers, counselors, law enforcement, and local social service agencies to improve the lives of students. He maintained an open door policy in which he was readily available to assist parents as well. Moreover, the Transportation Department, School Nutrition Department, and Technology Department fall under his umbrella of expertise. Serving with diverse people in all of these different capacities throughout his career has given him the opportunity to mentor and touch many lives.

Dr. Tunstall participated in local and regional meetings on a regular basis and was an active member of the State Superintendent's Testing and Growth Accountability Task Force where he was influential in making statewide decisions for accountability. Throughout his time in Surry County, in addition to his dedication to the local schools and the state, Jeff and his wife Leah, have been instrumental in building the sport of swimming through their work with area high schools and the local USA Swimming Team, North Piedmont Aquatic Club.

“Without a doubt, it has been a true honor to work with the administrators, teachers, students, staff, and parents in Surry County Schools,” shared Dr. Tunstall. In retirement, he plans to travel and spend time with his family, including wife Leah and his four daughters, Kaitlyn and her husband Brinson, Courtney, Kelsey, and Anne-Louise.

Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves stated, “Dr. Tunstall has provided leadership and guidance for many years supporting students, families, administrators, and staff in the district. His care and concern for students are evident in every decision he makes and in everything he does. He has been a valued member of the Senior Cabinet and while his strengths are many, keeping current with changing laws, requirements, and regulations dealing with testing and accountability, as well as evolving student services needs are some of his greatest areas of excellence. Jeff has a unique ability to see the positive in others and has shared his expertise to help our students and staff members grow academically and professionally. His calm and student-centered approach will have a lasting impact on the district and I personally thank him for always operating with a heart of servant leadership. I wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.”

“It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Jeff Tunstall over the years. He has a quiet strength and obvious depth of character and compassion for students. He has been a mentor and has supported administrators in making decisions in the best interest of children while supporting those decisions with relevant and meaningful data. He is one who listens and weighs his response with a focus on children and that is what I admire most about him. On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish him well in his retirement,” commented Dr. Terri E. Mosley, Surry County Schools Board Chairperson.

