

HAWTHORN SCHOOL DISTRICT 73

District Office Education Services Center

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Mark Friedman, Ed.D.

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Interim Superintendent

August 1, 2018

Dear Hawthorn 73 Families,

We hope you are having a peaceful and relaxing summer and that you were able to enjoy some quality family time together. With the new school year just around the corner, we thought the time was right to share some important news regarding the upcoming school year.

First, we are both very excited to be the Interim Superintendents of Hawthorn 73 for the 2018-2019 school year. As way of introduction, Dr. Mark Friedman is a retired school superintendent most recently from Libertyville School District 70. In addition, Dr. Friedman has completed three additional interim superintendent assignments. When the experiences are combined, Dr. Friedman has over 20 years experience as a superintendent. Dr. Joe Porto is also a retired school superintendent, most recently from Avoca School District 37 in Wilmette, and earlier in his career at Pleasantdale School District 107 in Burr Ridge. Within his career, Dr. Porto served as a superintendent for 17 years. We bring a combined 37 years of experience to our position at Hawthorn, and we plan to utilize that rich background to keep the district moving forward during this year of transition.

Sometime during the course of this school year, the Hawthorn School Board will select a new, permanent superintendent. However, it is likely that the new superintendent will not begin until July 1, 2019. We are determined to make sure that the current 2018-2019 school year is as successful and productive as possible for the entire Hawthorn School Community. While this is a year of transition, it is by no means a year of diminished expectations. We have three simple, but powerful goals that will be the focus of the new school year:

- Deliver the current education program with rigor and fidelity
- Educate the community about the need to support the two referendum questions in November
- Smooth the way for the new superintendent to “hit the ground running” when he/she begins

Hawthorn 73 is a dynamic learning community with a high-quality, balanced educational program. Many creative initiatives have been launched over the past few years, the most recent is 1:1 Personalized Learning at the middle school level. These programs and activities are designed to maximize the unique potential of each learner. The 2018-2019 school year will be fully devoted to this endeavor. Vigorous and successful implementation of the educational program in all facets will be the expectation.

A critical enrollment surge and space crunch are currently straining the district in many alarming ways. On July 23, the board of education voted to place two referendum questions on the

November ballot to directly address these issues. The entire community must be informed about the current reality of the space issue and the solutions represented in the referendum questions. So Hawthorn residents may make an informed decision, great time and effort will be devoted toward sharing information through a number of communication vehicles throughout the fall.

As interim superintendents, we are determined to accomplish the two goals above, as well as to do everything we can to clear the way for a successful transition to the new leadership next school year. As such, we will find efficiencies, solve identified issues and address as many challenges as may arise during the course of the year. In this way, the new leader will be able to enter the Hawthorn school community with a clear path toward success.

Thank you in advance for being partners with in the learning process. It is only when school and home collaborate in meaningful and effective ways that children are able to fully maximize their potential. We appreciate your support and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Porto
Interim Superintendent

Dr. Mark Friedman
Interim Superintendent