FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jonathan Hutchison
Communications Director
North Clackamas Schools #12
hutchisonj@nclack.k12.or.us
(503) 353-6008 (work)

Superintendent Utterback to Retire at end of School Year
Matt Utterback will retire after 31 years with NCSD

Milwaukie, OR (October 22, 2019) — In 31 years with North Clackamas Schools (NCSD), Matt Utterback has become synonymous with the school district, rising from middle school science teacher to district superintendent.

With Utterback at the helm the past seven-plus years, NCSD has made significant progress in student achievement, embarked on an ambitious plan to modernize its facilities, and made equity a cornerstone of its work.

That success is one reason why Utterback feels the timing is right to step away, as he informed the school board last week that he will retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

“I have been blessed throughout my career with the support and encouragement of our school board, district staff, and community members,” Utterback said. “Working together, we have achieved a great deal, yet NCSD has just as much to be excited about moving forward.”

After serving as a middle school principal, director of secondary programs, and assistant superintendent, Utterback spent four years as principal of Clackamas High School before being named superintendent, on an interim basis at first, in 2012. Since taking the job, NCSD’s graduation rate has risen from 66 percent in 2011 to 85 percent in 2018, and the district has also seen achievement and graduation gaps narrow significantly for most student groups and close completely for some.

Utterback coordinated and implemented a successful $433 million capital construction bond campaign in 2016 and a local operating levy in 2018 giving NCSD a positive financial outlook.

In recognition of his leadership, Utterback was named Oregon’s 2017 Superintendent of the Year and the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year by The School Superintendents Association (AASA).
“The board of directors is grateful for the work Superintendent Utterback has done to bring NCSD to where it is now and for setting the foundation for a bright future,” School Board Chair Steven Schroedl said. “A good leader not only leaves their organization in a better position than when they found it, but also sets it up for continued success once they have left. NCSD has been very fortunate to have received Mr. Utterback’s services for all 31 years of his distinguished career.”

The school board will begin formulating how to search for a new superintendent in the coming weeks, and will release a plan to all stakeholders once it is formalized.

The board already established a clear direction for the district after adopting a new strategic plan in 2018. The plan includes five core values for NCSD: equity, engagement, care, integrity, and excellence. The board built upon this work by adopting an Equity Stance in 2019.

NCSD is an award-winning district that prepares students who are inspired and empowered to strengthen the quality of life in our local and global communities. More information about NCSD is available at www.nclack.k12.or.us.