

Superintendent Lewis Announces New Senior Leadership

Hires will begin phase one of the district's reorganization

Newly appointed Orleans Parish Superintendent Henderson Lewis is moving swiftly to fill key senior leadership positions that were posted in early June following the Orleans Parish School Board's June committee meetings.

“When I was hired, one of my top priorities was to move the Orleans Parish schools in the direction of portfolio management and build a network of schools that would yield positive academic gains for our students,” Lewis said. “The first step in that process is hiring individuals who I believe possess the skills and background to move us in that direction.”

After a series of interviews with applicants, Superintendent Lewis has made the following hires:

Chief Administrative Officer: Michelle Blouin-Williams – Michelle Blouin-Williams brings years of school and district experience to the CAO position. She was unanimously approved by the Jefferson Parish School Board to serve as acting Superintendent in January 2015. She served as the Deputy Superintendent, as well as Chief Academic Officer, which included providing leadership, direction and guidance for strategic initiatives and day-to-day operations for the Jefferson Parish Public School System.

Chief Portfolio Officer: Mary Garton – For the past few years, Mary served on the senior leadership team for Jefferson Parish Public Schools as Chief of Staff and then Chief Human Capital Officer. For the past three months she served as the leader of Superintendent Lewis' transition team, where she worked to support the implementation of the Superintendent's 180 day entry plan. Mary taught middle school in Louisiana for almost ten years, most of those in Orleans Parish, and has significant non-profit leadership experience.

Chief Financial Officer: Stanley Smith – Since 2006, Stan has been with the Orleans Parish School Board and under his previous term as CFO, helped rebuild the OPSB's financial viability. OPSB recently received an Aa3 rating from Moody's and A+ from Standard & Poor's. Also credited under Smith's tenure as CFO was the refinancing of OPSB's bond debt that helped generate \$25 million in savings over 10 years. He most recently served as Interim Superintendent after the retirement of former Superintendent Darryl Kilbert.

“The Chief of Network Schools position will not be filled at this time,” Lewis said. “The HR and leadership team will ensure that the responsibilities of this position continue to be carried out while we resume our search for a candidate that can best fill this position,” he said.

Final salaries for the above positions are still being determined. The second phase of the Superintendent's reorganization plan will be completed in August and includes the reduction in staff and changes to address federal grant funding for schools.

For more information, contact Armand Devezin at armand_devezin@opsb.us

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