



Holly Sanders Fuller, M.Ed.
Director of Communications
940-393-7116
holly.fuller@decatur.esc11.net

News Release: Superintendent Rod Townsend Announces Plans to Retire

For Immediate Release

(February 28, 2017) – Mr. Rod Townsend has announced his plan to resign as superintendent of schools for the Decatur Independent School District and is preparing for his pending retirement. The Board of Trustees plans to immediately begin the process of hiring another superintendent.

“I am very humbled to have led this great school district for the past seven years” Mr. Townsend said, “I am preparing for my retirement and am grateful to have worked alongside a team of incredible educators in this role that I have thoroughly enjoyed.”

Mr. Townsend plans to continue in his role as superintendent through his resignation date of August 31, 2017.

The Board of Trustees expressed its appreciation to Mr. Townsend for his years of service as superintendent of DISD, to its students, parents, and administrators. The many goals achieved and challenges met under Mr. Townsend’s leadership have ushered in an era of education that is second-to-none.

Under Mr. Townsend’s leadership, DISD has tripled the career and technology program; increased the number of dual credit courses offered; implemented House Bill 5 to yield five endorsements with over 20 graduation pathways; and led renovations and construction of new facilities within the district.

Board President Dr. Jeff Alling believes Mr. Townsend has worked diligently during his seven years as superintendent to improve our school district. “Mr. Townsend has exhibited commitment and dedication to the Decatur ISD vision and goals,” Dr. Alling said. “He has admirably provided leadership while maintaining high-quality staff and improving our facilities to portray the excellence of our community.”

Mr. Townsend’s career in education spans more than four decades. He came to Decatur in July 2010 after 11 years as superintendent of Hico ISD. In addition to his work at DISD, Mr. Townsend served as President of the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2011-2012, and served 17 years in Rochester ISD.

“Serving the students, families and employees of Decatur ISD has been the highlight of my career, a privilege, and one of my proudest accomplishments,” Mr. Townsend said. “I am thankful to God for this opportunity as well as to all present and past board members for their support.”

The board and Mr. Townsend also wish to acknowledge and recognize the teachers, principals, administrators, staff, students, parents, and community members who have all directly contributed to the district’s success.

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940.393.7100 p 307 S Cates St. Decatur, TX 76234 decaturISD.us

