

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 15, 2008**

Today we are very pleased and excited to announce that we have hired Dr. Phil Burchfield as the new superintendent of the Clinton Public School District effective July 1, 2008.

Dr. Burchfield returns to Clinton having spent the past 5 years as superintendent of the Starkville School District. Prior to serving in Starkville, Dr. Burchfield was principal of Clinton High School for 9 years and assistant principal of Clinton High School for 8 years. Dr. Burchfield obtained his Ed.D. Degree in Education Leadership in 1995 from Mississippi State University.

The Board has been engaged in an intensive search process during the past 30 days which has been driven by two key factors. The first factor was the unique prospect of hiring one of the top school administrators in the State of Mississippi who has a proven track record of success in our district. The second factor was the short period of time in which school personnel across the state have to decide whether to renew their contracts for the next school year. This deadline is late February.

Immediately after Dr. Henderson advised the Board of her intent to retire at the end of the school year, Board members began informally pursuing leads on top tier candidates across the state who might be prospective candidates. One name quickly rose to the top – Phil Burchfield.

During the holidays, Board members spoke with Dr. Burchfield informally and determined his level of interest for the position. Subsequently, the Board invited Dr. Burchfield for an interview. Following the formal interview, the Board unanimously decided to offer the position of superintendent to Dr. Burchfield.

Hiring Dr. Burchfield presented a unique and rare opportunity for our district. No stranger to Clinton, Dr. Burchfield spent 17 years of his career in the administrative ranks of Clinton Public Schools. During his many years of administrative service within the district, Dr. Burchfield became very familiar with all aspects of operation of our district.

Serving as superintendent of Starkville School District provided Dr. Burchfield with the knowledge and experience of how to run a similar sized district effectively. Indeed, Dr. Burchfield has just recently completed one of the most successful bond elections in the history of the Starkville School District. That bond issue was in the amount of 26.5 million dollars and will impact four campuses in the district.

This rare combination – a working knowledge of our own district coupled with experience as a superintendent of a similar sized district – offered a unique opportunity for our district. Throughout the interview process, Dr. Burchfield displayed a passion for Clinton and a

keen understanding of how our district operates and the unique challenges facing our district. It became readily apparent after extensive conversations with Dr. Burchfield that he was the person for the job.

Dr. Burchfield will be able to step in on his first day and build upon and enhance our district's tradition of excellence. We look forward to the days ahead as Dr. Burchfield takes up the mantle of leadership within our district. Go Arrows!

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