



OOLOGAH-TALALA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wilkins Named Next Superintendent of Oologah-Talala Schools

The Oologah-Talala Board of Education has selected Dr. David Wilkins as the district's next superintendent.

Wilkins, currently an assistant superintendent for Pryor Public Schools, will officially begin his duties this summer. Oologah-Talala board members approved his hiring during a special meeting this evening following a two-month search facilitated by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Wilkins to our school family, and we are confident he is the right person -- at the right time -- to take the helm of our great school district," Don Tice, Board of Education president, said. "He is extremely knowledgeable in finance, instruction, operations, policies and procedures, and so much more. His extensive experience in school administration really made him shine."

Wilkins began his career as a middle school math teacher with Locust Grove Public Schools in 1998. He entered school administration in 2005 as a principal for the same district. Wilkins served as the superintendent of Hulbert Public Schools for

three years and Dewey Public Schools for four years before joining the Pryor Public Schools team as an assistant superintendent in 2016.

Wilkins received his bachelor's degree in elementary education and his master's degree in school administration from Northeastern Oklahoma State University and his doctorate from Oklahoma State University – Tulsa.

A northeast Oklahoma native, Wilkins said he has always been impressed by Oologah-Talala's tradition of excellence, adding that the district's reputation and proven record of success led him to apply for the position.

"Being from and working in this area, I have always known it is an outstanding school district," Wilkins said. "Members of the community believe in the power of public education, and they want to provide the very best for students. There's a strong sense of pride that comes with being an Oologah-Talala Mustang. I'm honored to be joining the team."

Wilkins said students, staff members, parents and residents can expect for him to be visible in the community, seeking input about how the school district can grow to be even better.

"I really like to talk to people one-on-one," he said. "I want feedback from the community and the staff about how we can strengthen and enhance instructional and extracurricular opportunities. When we work together, there are no limits to what we can accomplish. I will strive for every single student to reach his or her greatest potential. We'll make that our mission as a team."

As part of the search process, board members launched an online survey that allowed community members to provide input about the qualities they wanted in the next superintendent. OSSBA, on the board's behalf, also hosted numerous focus group meetings with district staff.

"We appreciate the many parents, residents and community members who shared their input throughout this process," Tice said. "It was reassuring to know we were on the right track and the expectations of the board and the expectations of the community aligned. It was clear we needed a school leader who could help design and implement a pathway to take our district to the next level. Mr. Wilkins definitely fits this profile and has the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed."

OSSBA performs superintendent searches throughout the state for school districts of all sizes, including recent hires for Muskogee, Bixby, Chisholm, Clinton, Metro Technology Center and Autry Technology Center. The non-profit organization advertises the districts' openings, recruits potential candidates, furnishes an online application management system, and provides guidance and support throughout the search process.

Wilkins will succeed current Superintendent Max Tanner, who will continue to serve through the end of this school year.