



April 21, 2021

RSD Board President Chris Cloud Releases the Following Statement on Behalf of
the Board of Education

On January 20, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Russellville School District evaluated the job performance of its former superintendent, Dr. Mark Gotcher. The employment contract between the Russellville School District and Dr. Gotcher provided that the Board of Directors may extend the contract by one or more years if the Board of Directors, in its evaluation, determined that Dr. Gotcher achieved satisfactory progress toward realizing the goals set forth by the Board of Directors and in fulfilling the mission and vision of the Russellville School District. The Board of Directors declined its option to extend Dr. Gotcher's contract as part of the January 20, 2021 evaluation.

Since that time, a range of issues persisted related to Dr. Gotcher's relationship with the Board of Directors and his relationship with Russellville School District staff which led the Board of Education to determine that the Russellville School District needed a new leadership. Therefore, after failing to resolve those issues and reach an agreeable end to Dr. Gotcher's employment relationship with the Russellville School District, on April 20, 2021, the Russellville School District Board of Directors placed Dr. Mark Gotcher on paid administrative leave effective immediately and terminated his employment contract effective June 30, 2021.

Chris Cloud
Board President