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| BREAKING NEWS | 4 dead, at least 9 injured in shooting at high school near Atlanta, authorities say



Education

'You always want to leave a place better': Dist this school year



Diamond Lake District 76 Superintendent Bhavna Sharma- She has held the position for 10 years but will be leaving a *Diamond Lake District 76*

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The school year at Diamond Lake Elementary starts this week with big news from its top administrator.

After 10 years leading and advancing the district, Sharma-Lewis will leave at the end of the school year. “This is the end of a chapter in my life and the end of my story,” she informed staff and families.

“When I joined the district, I set out with a vision to create a district that prioritizes academic and professional excellence, a supportive culture and focuses on the holistic development of every staff member,” she wrote.

Those goals have been achieved — and survive. SparkleOn brand, an acronym for service, pride, love, equity, opportunity and nurture, is well known in the community.

“It’s our mindset. It’s our culture,” she said.

According to the most recent state statistics, 54% of students with 54% being identified as low-income.

Sharma-Lewis has been an educator for 33 years and a superintendent. Since arriving at District 7, she stated priority to be “visible, approachable and supportive to teachers, parents and the community.”

School board President Joy Hail said Sharma-Lewis was a culture for the district where every student was safe and valued when they entered our buildings.

During the pandemic, Sharma-Lewis ensured needs were met and worked to establish a “significant support families, be it with food, wi-fi connection or other resources.”

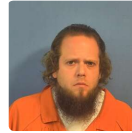
Voter-financed projects begin in Lake County

In 2017, Sharma-Lewis led the district through a referendum allowing the district to update school buildings. More recently, Sharma-Lewis led the consolidation of school buildings to two: Diamond Lake school and a third through eighth grades, she added.

Improving student achievement has been a priority. Sharma-Lewis said 92% of students showed growth in English language arts and 94% in math.

“We are slowly closing that achievement gap,” she said.

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WINDER, Ga. (AP) — A shooting at a Georgia high school Wednesday caused an unknown number of injuries and a suspect was arrested in a chaotic scene in which officers swarmed the campus and students...



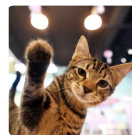
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Five-year contract approved for District 76 superintendent

Hail said the district will seek a new leader to continue Sharma-Lewis' work.

“We feel that her work has been significant and are looking for a leader that will further the district's mission and vision of Embrace, Empower, Excel: Each Child, Each Day,” Hail said.

On Thursday, Sharma-Lewis planned to read a book about being a “bucket filler” in all classrooms. The lesson is to be kind and sharing rather than negative and be a bully, she said.

“If you fill other people's buckets, you'll continue to fill yours,” she explained.

Besides a place to teach and learn, District 76 has become a thriving family where everyone is valued, supported, loved and inspired to reach their potential, Sharma-Lewis told staff and parents.

She didn't say what her next chapter will be but plans to finish strong and celebrate the milestones this year as they come.

“You always want to leave a place better,” she said.

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The McHenry Community High School Tri-M Music Honor Society earned the 2023-24 Illinois Chapter of the Year by the National Association for Music Education for the student group's work to support...



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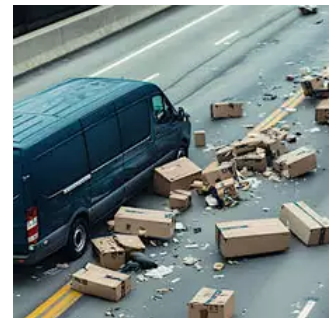
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