

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

April 27, 2026

Subject:

Appointment of
Director of Teaching
and Learning

Presenter:

**Scott Thielman,
Superintendent**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Recommend appointment of Dr. Cynthia Mueller as the Director of Teaching and Learning, effective July 1, 2026.

DESCRIPTION:

We have a new Director of Teaching and Learning for 2026-2027! The position was offered to and accepted by Dr. Cynthia Mueller, who is currently a Principal on Special Assignment and District Literacy Specialist with White Bear Lake Area Schools. Our selection process is designed to allow the school district to determine if we have the "right fit" for BHM Schools, and also allows the candidate to determine if BHM Schools is the "right fit" for them. Through the process, we have determined that Cynthia is the right fit for the position and our district, and Cynthia is excited to join our team.

Dr. Cynthia Mueller

Background Information:

- Principal on Special Assignment and District Literacy Specialist, White Bear Lake Area Schools, White Bear Lake, MN (2023-present)
- Elementary Principal, White Bear Lake Area Schools, White Bear Lake, MN (2017-2023)
- Program for Professional Development Coach, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, Buffalo, MN (2015-2017)
- Adjunct Instructor, Saint Mary's University, Winona, MN (2013- present)
- STEM Curriculum Integration Specialist, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, Buffalo, MN (2011-2015)
- Elementary Teacher, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, Buffalo, MN (2005-2011)
- Kindergarten Teacher, Pocatello/Chubbeck School District #25, Pocatello, ID (2003-2005)

Educational Background:

- Doctor of Education, Saint Mary's University, MN (2025)
- Educational Administration Licensure, Saint Mary's University, MN (2016)
- MA, Literacy Education, Saint Mary's University, MN (2012)
- BA, Elementary Education, College of Saint Benedict, MN (2003)

What did we hear about Cynthia during the selection process?

- Values relationships and collaboration within the schools and across departments
- Leads in a way that creates conditions for others to succeed
- Committed to the growth and development of staff and students alike
- Demonstrates a clear vision and the ability to unite others around a shared mission
- Brings valuable experience in literacy and in coaching others to improve instructional practice
- Returns to the district with a strong desire to contribute, building on valuable experience gained elsewhere

What words did others use to describe Cynthia?

- Makes others feel valued
- Meets people where they are at and helps them grow
- She is authentic, approachable, and collaborative
- Have not worked with a finer person, she has made me a better leader
- She is highly student-centered and believes in the value of the growth and development of principals and teachers to reach a collectively shared vision