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## **WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

*Superintendent to Retire in December After Leading the District Through Unprecedented Challenges to a District that embraces Equity, Anti-racism and Student Achievement*

RICHMOND – West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Superintendent Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr. Ed.D has announced his decision to retire in December 2024 after more than three years of leading the district through some of its most significant challenges.

Dr. Hurst joined WCCUSD in 2021 and has since guided the district through the safe return to in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, the district has made substantial progress in improving equity, advancing student achievement, strengthening recruitment and retention efforts, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. He has been a key driver of initiatives that have strengthened the district’s commitment to supporting students and staff.

“This decision was not easy, but it is the right one for my family,” Superintendent Hurst said in a recent video announcement to the WCCUSD community. “My mother-in-law is currently facing health challenges, and my wife and I feel it is important to move closer to her to provide care and support. Family and faith are at the core of who I am, and I must prioritize them at this time. I am incredibly proud of the progress we’ve made as a district, and I know that the dedicated leadership team we’ve built will continue this work to support our students and staff.”

Superintendent Hurst is commended for his leadership and dedication and has been an outstanding leader for our district, navigating some of the most difficult times in our history.

“His commitment to anti-racism has left a lasting legacy. While we are saddened to see him retire, we fully support his decision to prioritize his family at this time,” Board President Jamela Smith-Folds said.

During his tenure, Superintendent Hurst led significant initiatives, including the district's equity audit, the creation of 24 Career Technical Education pathways, and key improvements in staffing and fiscal health. His leadership was instrumental in securing fiscal solvency for the district after overcoming budget and staffing challenges heightened by the pandemic, and developing an extensive Strategic Plan and LCAP plan that ensures substantial success in achievements and wraparound support for all students.

The WCCUSD School Board will meet on Tuesday to vote on the appointment of an interim superintendent who will oversee district operations following Superintendent Hurst's retirement in December. The Board of education will be providing additional information to the community in the near future.

For more information, please visit <https://www.wccusd.net/superintendent>.

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