Dr. Ed Hillhouse, Superintendent   Dr. Terri A. Parks, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Haug, Chief Financial Officer   Dr. Jeremy Way, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Jonathan Mulford, Sr., Named Meramec Valley R-III School District Superintendent beginning in the 2018-2019 school year

Dr. Mulford will be joining the MVR-III team on July 1, 2018, as the new Superintendent of Schools. This announcement follows a special board meeting that was held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, which concluded a four-month superintendent search and selection process.

Dr. Mulford comes to MVR-III with 20 years of teaching and leadership experience. His recent experience includes his service the past five years as superintendent of the West Plains R-VII School District. Prior to his tenure as superintendent in West Plains, his educational career initially began at Heritage Christian School where he was principal and the upper-level math and science teacher for four years. For the last sixteen years, he served in the West Plains R-VII School District in various capacities. Beginning in 2002, Mulford's first four years in West Plains R-VII, he was a teacher of mathematics at both the middle and high school level, while also serving as an assistant coach for football, baseball, and track. In 2006, he became the middle school assistant principal, before promotion to the position of high school principal in 2008. In 2009, Dr. Mulford advanced to the role of assistant superintendent where he served in that capacity for four years before being promoted to his current title as superintendent of schools in 2013.

Dr. Mulford received his Doctorate degree in educational leadership from Saint Louis University (SLU) in 2009, after previously earning his Educational Specialist degree from SLU as well. He also holds his master's degree from William Woods University and undergraduate degree from Missouri State University.

Dr. Mulford will replace Dr. Ed Hillhouse, superintendent of schools, in July 2018, for an initial three-year term. Dr. Hillhouse rejoined the MVR-III School District in July 2015, under a two-year contract, after the sudden passing of then superintendent, Mr. Randy George, to help stabilize the district under such a sudden and devastating loss and to move the district forward towards the educational goals that were already in place. "It has been an honor for me to steer the course of the district, for a second term, and guide all the great work that Mr. George had put into motion. My mission over the next several months will be to help Dr. Mulford with a smooth transition, allowing MVR-III to continue to grow and achieve the goals of our

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comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP plan)." indicated Dr. Hillhouse. Dr. Mulford will join the Pacific community along with his wife of 20 years, Heather, and his two children, John David, a freshman at Missouri State University, and Morgan, a high school junior.

Mr. Tim Richardson, President of the MVR-III Board of Education stated, "We are very happy to have Dr. Mulford join our school system and community. When we began the search process, we were charged by our community and staff to find a candidate that had superintendent experience and a proven track record as a highly-effective district leader. We wanted a superintendent that could keep the district focus on student achievement, community partnerships, and build strong relationships with all stakeholders. We believe we have found those leadership qualities in Dr. Mulford."

Some examples of experiences that Dr. Mulford will bring to MVR-III to support the current MVR-III Comprehensive School Improvement Plan include:

- Recognized by Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for 100% student access to STEM courses, one of only 23 Missouri school districts,
- Achieved 90% or higher on the state's Annual Performance Report (APR) each year
- Expanded authentic, hands-on learning experiences at all grade levels,
- Increased community involvement through various program initiatives including: Bridges, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), multiple partnerships with Missouri State University-West Plains campus, and the Greater Ozark-CAPS Internship Program,
- Expanded access to technology across all campuses and,
- Numerous community partnerships/memberships, such as, Rotary Club, Optimist Club, service on the board of the Samaritan Outreach Center, a founding board member for the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater West Plains Area, Chamber of Commerce and service as a deacon at Central Calvary Baptist Church.

When asked "Why MVR-III?" Dr. Mulford stated, "I have spent most of my life in the rural Missouri community of West Plains. People there still value things like hard work, friendliness, community, and strong schools. As my family and I considered the superintendency at MVR-III, we quickly realized that this school district and community shared those same values. MVR-III is close to the amenities of the city while still providing the small community feel that we enjoy. In addition, this community has demonstrated a commitment to their schools, which is something I value and appreciate. While it is hard to say goodbye to the many friends we have made over the years in West Plains, we are looking forward to the new friendships we will create in the years to come."

Dr. Mulford will launch his transition to MVR-III by beginning to attend board meetings and district events, as his availability will allow, before his official start date of July 1, 2018.

MERAMEC VALLEY R-III

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Dr. John Mulford
MVR-III Superintendent of Schools
Beginning 2018-2019 school year

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