

Fonseca Named Interim Superintendent

Written by Steve Frank
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It was evident as the Watauga Board of Education met with the Watauga County Commission over budget issues last week in a budget work session, that Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Fonseca handled the financial issues brought up by the commission and presented the school's case well, according to the board members after the session. So it is not too surprising that Fonseca has been named interim superintendent for the Watauga County Schools effective June 1st for a term of a year while the board decides on a more permanent replacement for soon to be former superintendent Dr. David Kafitz. Kafitz' official tenure with the Watauga schools will end May 31st, in an agreement assuring his departure without legal action after several incidents in the county. The appointment was approved by the Watauga County Board of Education Monday night and is effective through June 30th, 2014, according to the schools release.

Board Chair Dr. Lee Warren said, "The Board of Education has been very impressed by how Dr. Fonseca is handling his additional responsibilities during this time of transition in our schools," and said, "He is clearly a highly qualified and well respected educational leader who has built strong relationships with the Board, with school system personnel, and throughout our community. We are fortunate to have him as assistant superintendent and we look forward to working with him as interim superintendent."

Dr. Fonseca said "I am honored that the Board has chosen to entrust me with this additional role. I pledge to continue to work with the Board, with teachers and other school personnel, with students and parents, and with all of our community partners to further strengthen this excellent school system. Educational leadership is a path to service, not a seat of power, and I will do everything humanly possible to help our schools keep students and teachers first in all that we do."

Dr. Fonseca came to the Watauga County Schools from his previous position as assistant superintendent of instructional services for the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools. Prior to accepting that position, he was the principal of H.M. Arndt Middle School in Catawba County Schools from 2008-2011, served as an assistant principal in Gaston County, and was a school administrator for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He began his career in education in Lincoln, NC in 1992 and his classroom experience includes teaching positions at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition to his work as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Fonseca has also coached middle school and high school soccer and basketball.

Dr. Fonseca earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Veracruz in Veracruz, Mexico, a master's degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Appalachian State University. He has also participated in several school leadership programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed the Leadership Institute for Superintendents at Harvard University in March of last year.

The Watauga County Schools system includes eight schools serving elementary and middle school students and one comprehensive high school for grades 9-12. The total system enrollment is approximately 4,500 students.