

Dear Members of the Madison School Community,

It is a tremendous honor and privilege to introduce myself as your next Superintendent of Schools. I am deeply grateful to the Board of Education for entrusting me with this opportunity, and I look forward to partnering with students, staff, families, and the broader community to support the continued success and growth of every learner.

Madison holds special significance for me. I had the privilege of serving this community for 22 years earlier in my career. My experiences in Madison helped shape my approach to educational leadership and deepened my appreciation for the district's longstanding tradition of academic excellence, dedicated educators, and engaged families. Returning to Madison in this new role is professionally exciting and personally meaningful.

Most recently, I served as Assistant Superintendent at Millburn Township Public Schools, where I collaborated closely with district and school leaders to strengthen instructional systems, expand access to academic opportunities, and support students' overall well-being. During my time in Millburn, I led several districtwide initiatives aimed at increasing equitable access to advanced coursework, expanding opportunities for students to earn college credit through dual-enrollment partnerships, and refining academic pathways to ensure students could progress based on demonstrated readiness and growth.

I also partnered with teachers and administrators to review assessment and grading practices, ensuring classroom expectations were better aligned with student learning outcomes. Through cross-departmental collaboration and data-informed decision-making, we enhanced instructional consistency across the district while upholding high standards for student achievement.

Earlier in my Millburn career, I served as Principal of Millburn Middle School, where I worked with educators, students, and families to evaluate school structures and student workload. Together, we redesigned aspects of the school schedule and learning environment to better support academic excellence and student well-being.

Throughout my leadership roles, I have been guided by the core belief that schools function best when they foster strong relationships, thoughtful collaboration, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement. I believe every student should feel challenged, supported, and connected to their school community, and that outstanding school systems create the conditions for both educators and students to thrive.

In the coming months, I look forward to visiting each of our schools, engaging with students and staff, and connecting with families and community members. Listening and learning will be my first priorities as we build on Madison's strong foundation and work together to ensure every student's success.

Thank you for welcoming me to the Madison school community. I am enthusiastic about the work ahead and look forward to partnering with you as we continue to advance Madison Public Schools.

Sincerely,

John Connolly