



Media Release

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SCHOOL BOARD NAMES CYNTHIA SAUNDERS SUPERINTENDENT SHE WILL BE SWORN IN AT 4 P.M. THURSDAY

(Bradenton, FL – June 27, 2018) The School Board of Manatee County voted to approve Cynthia Saunders as the next Superintendent of the School District of Manatee County during a School Board meeting last night. Mrs. Saunders will serve as Superintendent following Dr. Diana Greene, who was named Superintendent in Duval County.

She will be sworn in during a brief ceremony on **Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 4 p.m.** in the Board Chambers at the District's School Support Center, located at 215 Manatee Ave. W, in Bradenton. Judge Brian Iten is expected to preside over the swearing-in ceremony.

Mrs. Saunders has more than 28 years of professional experience in education as a teacher, assistant principal and principal as well as in district leadership positions in curriculum and staff development and as an Executive Director of Secondary Schools. Prior to becoming Superintendent, Mrs. Saunders served as Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services in Manatee County from July 2015 to June 2018.

During her tenure as Deputy Superintendent, the School District of Manatee County made significant gains academically. The Florida Department of Education gave the district a grade of "B" two of the last three years (2015, 2017) after receiving a grade of "C" the previous three years. In 2017, 81% of all Manatee District schools received either an "A, B or C" grade and for the first time since 2009, not a single Manatee District school received an "F" grade. In addition, the Manatee District's graduation rate rose from 77.9 percent in 2014-2015 to 83.5 percent for the 2016-2017 school year.

As Executive Director of Secondary Schools from 2013-2015, Manatee District high schools exceeded the state average in the percentage of high schools receiving an A or B grade. No Manatee District High School received less than a C grade during Mrs. Saunders tenure as Executive Director of Secondary Schools.

Mrs. Saunders holds a Master's Degree (M.S.) from Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor's degree (B.S.) in Mathematics Education at the University of Central Florida.

Mrs. Saunders is married to George "Rock" Saunders. They have one son, Casey, and are proud grandparents.

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