

SAU 70 Selects Dr. Jay Badams as its Next Superintendent

Dr. Badams currently serves as superintendent of the Erie (Pa.) School District

Hanover, N.H. (Jan. 10, 2017) – The School Administrative Unit 70 school board tonight selected Dr. Jay Badams to be the next superintendent of the Hanover, N.H., and Norwich, Vt., schools. The board will now enter contract negotiations with Dr. Badams, who will assume the position on July 1, the day after the retirement of current SAU 70 Superintendent Dr. Frank Bass.

“After casting a wide net in our search, the board is very pleased to welcome Dr. Badams and his family to our community and to announce his selection as our next superintendent,” said SAU 70 School Board Chairman Carey Callaghan. “Throughout the interview process and during his visits with a number of stakeholders in the district, Jay impressed with his depth of experience and educational knowledge, his ability to connect with and inspire students, staff and community members, and his track record of leadership with integrity. We feel fortunate to add Dr. Badams as head of our administrative, faculty and staff teams, and are excited about our future with him as our district’s leader.”

After being informed of his nomination as superintendent, Dr. Badams expressed his appreciation for the board’s action and complimented the Hanover and Norwich communities.

"I am sincerely honored to have earned the confidence of the SAU 70 School Board, and to have been so kindly welcomed by the Hanover and Norwich communities," said Dr. Badams. "It is obvious to me, even from my limited time in the district, that the entire Hanover-Norwich community is highly committed to the education of its children, and I consider it a privilege to join the SAU 70 team."

Currently the superintendent of the 18-school Erie, Pa., district, Dr. Badams’ selection will bring him and his family back to the Upper Valley after a nearly 25-year absence. They previously lived in Saxtons River, Vt., while he was an account manager in the health sciences division of Eastman Kodak, where he counted Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center among his clients.

"My wife and I began our life together in the Connecticut River Valley, when my job with Eastman Kodak Company brought us to Vermont," said Dr. Badams. "Our connection to the region has remained strong and when I learned of the SAU 70 leadership search, the chance to work for such a high performing and unique school system seemed like a rare opportunity, and a chance for me to focus on what truly led me to district administration: the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement in education."

Dr. Badams has been Erie’s superintendent since 2010, serving an 18-month stint as assistant superintendent prior to that. He was the superintendent of the Wattsburg (Pa.) Area School District from 2007 to 2009. Additional educational roles held by Dr. Badams include director of high schools, associate dean, curriculum and assessment specialist, and special education teacher.

During his time as superintendent of Erie’s schools, Dr. Badams became a vocal statewide advocate for equality in education funding.

A member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education since 2014, Dr. Badams earned his Doctorate of Education from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Allegheny College. From 1987 to 1990 he was a Medical Corpsman in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division.

He and his wife Tiffany, a high school business teacher, have three college- and adult-age children, and a son who will enter high school this fall.

About SAU 70: SAU 70 is the administrative district for the schools of Hanover, N.H., and Norwich, Vt., which are comprised of the Bernice A. Ray Elementary School, Frances C. Richmond Middle School and

Hanover High School in Hanover, and the Marion W. Cross School in Norwich. More information is available at sau70.hanovernorwichschools.org.