

Press Release

East Jackson Community Schools Announces Resignation of Superintendent and Appointment of Internal Candidate as Successor

Jackson, Michigan – June 24 ,2024

It is with mixed emotions that the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education announces the resignation of Superintendent Steve Doerr. Doerr has served our district with exceptional dedication and leadership for 8 years, during which time he has implemented numerous successful initiatives and fostered a culture of excellence and inclusivity.

Superintendent Doerr will be stepping down on July 31, 2024. We are deeply grateful for the contributions and unwavering commitment to our students, staff, and community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. The Board of Education is planning to honor Mr. Doerr following the Board of Education meeting on July 15th.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Punches as the new superintendent of East Jackson Community Schools. Punches has been serving as principal of East Jackson Middle School and has been with the district for 9 years. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to East Jackson's educational mission.

Jeff Punches has played a pivotal role in supporting staff and improving the educational and athletic opportunities for our students. He established an alternative education program with a focus on virtual learning and credit recovery, is responsible for visible improvements to the schools and athletic facilities and helps with creating a positive working environment for staff. Jeff recently completed the MLI SUPES Academy and is well-prepared to lead our district toward continued success.

Board President Ken Straub stated, "We are excited to welcome Jeff Punches into this new role. His deep understanding of our district and his proven leadership abilities makes him the ideal candidate to continue our mission of providing an excellent education to all students."

Punches will officially assume his new role as superintendent on August 1, 2024. We are confident that his vision and dedication will guide East Jackson in a positive direction.