

PINE PLAINS BOARD OF EDUCATION

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

TEL: (518) 398-7181 FAX: (518) 398-6592

WWW.PPCSD.ORG

Fred “Chip” Couse, President
Amie Fredericks
James Griffin
Heidi Johnson

Anne K. Arent, Vice-President
Joseph Kiernan
Jean Stapf

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk 

DATE: April 23, 2021

In the Summer of 2013, The Pine Plains Central School District engaged Dr. Martin Handler to head the District as Superintendent. Dr. Handler came to our District with an extensive background in Education Management and it became immediately clear that his experience was what our District needed.

In the ensuing years, under Dr. Handler’s leadership, academic standing has risen to be in the upper tier of Dutchess County schools. Innovative programs and working closely with the teaching staff proved to be the catalyst the District needed. Each year of Dr. Handler’s tenure has seen improvement in test scores, in Regents scores, and in the graduation rate.

At the same time, Dr. Handler has presided over an extraordinary period of labor peace with the District’s collective bargaining units. He has proven that, when treated respectfully and honestly, the entire community of the District’s employees can produce a great educational environment and impressive results.

Lastly, the District’s financial situation has never been better. Dr. Handler has proven to be a strong steward of the District’s facilities and finances. Ours is one of only a handful of District’s across the State without any debt. And our facilities are top notch.

We will soon approach the time when Dr. Handler will step aside and enjoy more leisure time. Dr. Handler will step down from his leadership position with the close of the 2021-22 school year. The thanks of the community seem inadequate for his contributions and his leadership will become part of the rich lore of our School District.

Part of his leadership has been preparing for that day by ensuring a smooth transition in the Superintendency. To that end, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Brian Timm will succeed Dr. Handler to become the next Superintendent of the District. Dr. Timm has played a key role in the academic success of the District during his tenure here and has demonstrated the leadership qualities necessary to continue the District’s drive to excellence. With his experience in the District, the Board of Education feels confident that Dr. Timm is the best candidate to carry forward the growth of the District. Dr. Timm will begin his role as the next Superintendent July 1, 2022. Over the next year Dr. Handler and Dr. Timm will create a seamless transition that will insure the extraordinary progress made over the past eight years will continue to grow.

TOWNS: PINE PLAINS, MILAN STANFORD, NORTHEAST, CLINTON, DUTCHESS COUNTY:
GALLATIN, ANCRAM, LIVINGSTON, CLERMONT, COLUMBIA COUNTY