



290 First Street  
P.O. Box 100  
Gervais, Oregon 97026-0100  
Phone: (503) 792-3803  
FAX: (503) 792-3809  
[www.gervais.k12.or.us](http://www.gervais.k12.or.us)

*We, with the involvement of our culturally rich community, will provide a creative, enriching and safe environment, which instills a desire to become a life-long learner and a responsible citizen.*

## Press Release/Announcement

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Contact: Sandra Segura  
Administrative Assistant and Board Secretary  
Gervais School District  
503-972-3803, Ext 2224  
[Sandra\\_segura@gervais.k12.or.us](mailto:Sandra_segura@gervais.k12.or.us)

### Gervais School Board selects Matt Henry as the next Superintendent

Concluding its search for a superintendent to succeed Rick Hensel whose term ends June 30, 2014, the Gervais School District Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Matthew S. Henry** has been selected to be the district's next Superintendent effective July 1, 2014. Henry and the Board are working on the terms of a tentative agreement that will be finalized at a public meeting.

"We had a large field of 30 applicants for our superintendent position and many of them had excellent credentials. However, Matt Henry emerged as the right choice to be our next Superintendent," Board Chair Brent LaFollette said. "As we got to know Matt throughout the search, he was the candidate having the experience and leadership skills we had identified to lead Gervais into the future." The Board reviewed the candidate applications with the assistance of a screening committee which included administrators, staff, and community members selecting several candidates for initial interviews. The Board with assistance from several screeners then conducted a round of interviews, followed by investigating the candidates' backgrounds and references. Three of the candidates were brought back into the district for a visit and to have a second interview with the Board. All those contacted as references had high praise for Henry's knowledge about education and ability to build relationships.

Matt grew up in the area, spending all of his K-12 years in the neighboring North Marion School District, where his father later served on SD Board. He met his wife Karen 32 years ago while they were both working summers between college at the Birds Eye Cannery in Woodburn.

Currently, Henry is the Siuslaw High School Principal in Florence, OR, a school of over 400 students, where he has served since 2010. Previously, he was Vice Principal for 3 years. Before Siuslaw HS he was Dean of Students and Assistant Principal at Grant Union High School in John Day, OR. He was a social studies teacher at Madras High School for fourteen years (Central Oregon) and spent two years at Payette HS (ID), and started his career at Arlington HS (OR), with his classroom experience spanning 17 years. Henry has a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Western Oregon University and a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Oregon State University. He fulfilled his graduate administrative licensure studies at the University of Oregon.

"We are called as educators to equip our entire student population to adapt and be ready for the changes around them in a very competitive global economy. We must meet them where they are and help guide them ever-forward, every moment of every day toward skills that will prepare them for *their* futures." Henry said. "I enthusiastically look forward to bringing the Gervais School District's students and education professionals together around a vibrant, always-improving learning community. I'm truly honored and very excited about the Board selecting me to be the next superintendent for the Gervais schools.

*Gervais School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer. El Distrito Escolar de Gervais es una empresa educadora de oportunidad igual.*