



The Fairfield Board of Education (BOE) named Michael Cummings as the Superintendent of Fairfield Public Schools (FPS) at a Special BOE meeting held Wednesday, July 31, 2019. Cummings will begin serving as Superintendent on, August 12, 2019, replacing current Interim Superintendent Stephen Tracy, who has been in the role since July 1st.

Cummings, who currently serves as Chief Academic Officer for FPS, has broad educational experience as both a teacher and administrator. He spent the majority of his career moving up the ranks of the Milford Public Schools, and then has become a key member of the FPS District Leadership Team over the past four years. Cummings joined FPS as Director of Elementary Education in July of 2015 and was then promoted to Chief Academic Officer in July 2017.

Cummings began his career 1986 as a History teacher at Milford's Foran High School. He spent nine years teaching social studies there, at Meadowside and Orange Avenue elementary schools, and at West Shore Middle School. He then moved from teaching to school administration, working eight years as the principal of Meadowside Elementary School.

In 2003, Cummings was named principal of Milford's Foran High School. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent in 2007. In November 2009, in addition to fulfilling his Assistant Superintendent responsibilities, Cummings stepped up to fill the role of the Interim Superintendent. When a new Superintendent was hired in 2011, Mike continued on as Assistant Superintendent until he made the move to Fairfield in 2015.

His leadership and commitment to public education was the inspiration for the "Michael Cummings Above and Beyond Award" which is presented each year to an employee of the Milford Public Schools who shows outstanding contributions to the district in the tradition Mike set forth.

Mike has deep roots in Connecticut. He was born and raised in Milford and is a graduate of Fairfield University where he received a BA in History. He went on

to obtain a Masters in History from the University of Notre Dame, a degree in School Administration from Southern Connecticut State University, and his Superintendent Certification through the Executive Leadership Program at the University of Connecticut.

Cummings was a member of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Systemic Transformation Committee. He has served in leadership roles for the Milford Association of School Administrators, the American Red Cross, and the Milford Literacy Center. He was the recipient of the Milford Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator Awards, the Milford Association of Patriotic Organizations award, and the Foran High School Teacher of the Year Award.

"It is a great honor to be appointed Superintendent of Schools in such a wonderful community," said Cummings. "I look forward to building on the good work of those caring and committed educators, board members, and community members who have come before me, and to serving the students and staff of the Fairfield Public Schools. We have the resources and capacity to address the challenges ahead as we continue to improve learning for all students. With the town we will engage in thoughtful planning, responsible budgeting, and transparent action that is mindful of what students require to achieve at the highest levels."

According to HYA, 23 candidates from 12 states applied for the position and six were brought forth to the BOE for its consideration. The BOE interviewed all six candidates and invited four back for a second interview before coming to its final decision.

"HYA conducted a professional and thorough search which resulted in a competitive field of candidates," said BoE Chair Christine Vitale, "After meeting with each of the candidates, it became clear who our next Superintendent should be. Mike Cummings articulated an excitement and vision for our school district which was unequalled. Mike is passionate about education, committed to Fairfield, and understands the financial challenges we in Connecticut are facing. His thoughtful leadership will be integral in fostering the environment of trust and collaboration needed to advance our district. The Board is excited for him to move into his new role and eager to build upon the strong foundation already set in place by past Superintendents."