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**For Immediate Release**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

## **DR. DANIEL P. MCGARRY NAMED BY THE UPPER DARBY SCHOOL BOARD AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

*Upper Darby native and graduate was acting superintendent and has spent 15 of the last 18 years serving in numerous capacities within the district from English teacher to principal and as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.*

**Upper Darby, PA** – The Upper Darby School Board named Dr. Daniel P. McGarry as permanent school superintendent today. McGarry is an 18-year veteran of public education with 15 years' experience in the Upper Darby School District as an English teacher, assistant middle school principal, principal of Bywood Elementary School, and as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. McGarry has served as acting superintendent since September 10, 2018, when Daniel Nerelli accepted a position as superintendent of the Chichester School District.

School Board President Rachel Mitchell commented on the announcement, “Dan McGarry is an Upper Darby Graduate who cares deeply about the success of the Upper Darby School District community. Dan’s long tenure with the school district shows his commitment to our children’s success. After a thorough search, we are proud and excited to appoint Dr. Dan McGarry as the next superintendent of schools. Dan’s community connections are key to the success of bringing key stakeholders together inside and outside of the district to accomplish the goals of our school community. In the last 6 months in the position, Dan has proven that he is the right choice at the right time for our school district.”

“Dan McGarry has been a steady hand at the wheel since being named interim superintendent, and he brings much-needed stability at an important time for our school district,” added Mitchell. “Under Dan’s leadership, his team successfully negotiated the new teacher contract and is working to expand our equity agenda to give every student greater opportunities regardless of race, income, or where they live in our community. He is also leading us through an honest discussion on how we can modernize our school facilities to better serve all Upper Darby students.”

The search for the new superintendent began with a baseline of characteristics pulled from the public leadership profile, which can be viewed here:

<https://www.upperdarbysd.org//cms/lib/PA02209738/Centricity/Domain/1599/Leadership%20Profile.pdf>

The superintendent search formally began in July of 2018 with the goal of finding a candidate who would promote and sustain school environments in which each student is known, accepted, valued, trusted, respected, cared for, and encouraged to be an active and responsible member of the

community. The search included the formal screening of 34 diverse candidates, nearly 60 combined hours of student, community, and staff focus groups, planning meetings and in-person candidate interviews. The Delaware County Intermediate Unit was brought in to assist with the search.

The board interviewed nine candidates in the first round of interviews. After the initial interview, three candidates were invited to a second-round interview. Following the second round of interviews, the Board selected two final candidates. The full school board will vote on McGarry as the next Superintendent at the March 26th advertised special voting meeting.

“This is the opportunity of a lifetime, and I am honored to be named Upper Darby school superintendent. I grew up here. I coach youth sports here, and I would like to finish my career working with this community [and] promoting our wonderful students,” said Dr. Dan McGarry. “I believe that our diversity is our greatest strength, and when you add this beautiful element to the size of our community and overall school district, we should always have a seat at the educational table of decision-making,” he stated.

“It takes a total team effort to earn this opportunity, and for that reason, I am appreciative of all those who have helped me make it to this point in my career... I am committed to unifying this diverse school district, promoting opportunities for our students and staff, developing plans to ensure equity across the school district, and advocating for the appropriate and fair funding of our schools so that academic excellence becomes the cornerstone of our schools,” added McGarry

“Dan’s domain knowledge of the district will serve him well in his new role. The importance of embracing and understanding the diversity of the Upper Darby community and students has never been more important,” said School Board Vice President Ed Brown. “Addressing diversity issues and making all stakeholders feel included is critical in crafting the kind of district that we all want and deserve. The superintendent’s role in this area is key to the success of our district. His success will be our success as a district and I am committed to working with him to provide the students in our district the very best education possible.”

Other school board members commented on McGarry’s selection. “After conducting an extensive search for our next superintendent that included looking at many highly qualified applicants, I am proud to say we found the most qualified candidate here in Upper Darby, Dan McGarry,” said School Board Member Ken Rucci. “Dan will use his years of experience in the classroom and as an administrator to deliver excellence for all our students and schools.”

Monica Taylor voiced her support, “now more than ever Upper Darby needs stability as we face important challenges that will define the future of our public schools. Throughout his career, Dan McGarry has shown an ability to lead under the toughest of circumstances and he does not shy away from courageous conversations. He will do the same as our next Superintendent of Schools.”

“As we better position ourselves in the Upper Darby School District to further move the needle on advocating for fair funding, equity, and inclusivity, decreasing overcrowded, deteriorating facilities and staff shortages, our Board of School Directors engaged in a collaborative selection process for our next superintendent. As a member of the Board, I look forward to making continued progress in our community and moving forward together in unity, will positively help us address the serious issues our community continues to face,” said School Board Member Gina Curry.

Neil Desnoyers added, “I am confident that Dr. McGarry will continue to work very hard for the students and employees of the Upper Darby School District.”

“Too often many people who complain about making our schools better don’t stay engaged and committed to solving problems. Then there are people that see a problem and make a plan to fix it. THAT person is Dr. Dan McGarry,” said School Board Member Don Fields.

“As an alumnus of Upper Darby High School and a senior administrator in the district, Dan has the passion to be superintendent and has a deep understanding of the challenges the District faces—from the serious underfunding burdens the state puts on our taxpayers to the challenges of overcrowded classrooms and teacher shortage,” said School Board Member Lee Jordan. “I have the utmost confidence in Dan to meet these challenges head on for the best outcomes for all of our stakeholders.”

“Dr. McGarry has been a leader in our school district for many years. He thoroughly understands all aspects of the job we are commissioning him to perform,” said School Board Member Judy Gentile.