

For Immediate Release

At their meeting last night, the Burgettstown Area School District Board of School Directors appointed Mr. Stephen Puskar as the next superintendent of schools. Mr. Puskar is relatively unknown to Washington County and IU1. He currently serves as the Jr./Sr. High Principal of Claysburg-Kimmel School District near Altoona. Previously, he has worked as an administrator in the Wilkinsburg, Moniteau and Baldwin-Whitehall School Districts. Originally, he was an English teacher and TV productions teacher for the Slippery Rock Area School District. Mr. Puskar is also an active school director for the Allegheny Valley School District in Cheswick, PA.

Following the vote, Mr. Puskar commented, "I am both proud and grateful that the school board selected me to be Dr. Walsh's successor. Throughout the interviewing process, one that included Board members, administrators, teachers, and community members, it became increasingly clear that Burgettstown is a good place with great people. I am humbled to be the next Superintendent of Schools. I look forward to working alongside everyone to create the best possible learning environment for the students."

Mr. Puskar succeeds Dr. James Walsh, who is leaving Burgettstown after five and a half years of service. Dr. Walsh is moving to be superintendent of the Bethel Park School District in Allegheny County.

The district expects a transition period between superintendents during which time Dr. Joyce Nicksick will serve as acting superintendent. Dr. Nicksick lives in Burgettstown and is a retired superintendent from Wilmington School District in Lawrence County. She served for 10 years prior to her retirement in 2013. The district expects Dr. Nicksick to serve through at least mid-April.

"We had a fantastic pool of candidates," said Mrs. Carrie Lonick-Snatchko, President of the Board of School Directors. "Mr. Puskar's community involvement and experience at all levels of the educational system really stood out to the board. His experience will help us navigate the current educational climate, as well as the challenges we anticipate in the future. His enthusiasm, intelligence, and down to earth nature were evident during the entire process."

