

Berryhill Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mark Batt Named Next Superintendent of Berryhill Public Schools

The Berryhill Board of Education has selected Mark Batt as the district’s next Superintendent.

Batt, currently superintendent for Watonga Public Schools, will officially begin his duties on July 1. Berryhill board members unanimously approved his hiring during a special meeting today following a three-month search facilitated by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association.

“We are very excited to welcome Mr. Batt to Berryhill,” Jack Lollis, Board of Education president said. “His extensive experience and knowledge of school operations, curriculum, finance and building projects will be huge assets for our district. He is a hard-working, family man and every person I spoke to during the hiring process strongly recommended Mr. Batt for this position.”

Batt is a lifelong Oklahoman and a Meeker High School graduate. His father was also a superintendent. Batt began his career as a history and government teacher as well as a basketball and baseball coach in Big Pasture Public Schools in 1997. He entered administration as a high school principal for Snyder Public Schools in 2008. He has served as superintendent for Dover, Carnegie, and Watonga Public Schools.

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Mr. Batt's expertise in school finance has allowed him to significantly improve the fund balances in each of his previous superintendencies. He has built solid relationships with Indian tribes through camps, heritage events and celebrations. He regularly communicates with political leaders and law enforcement on legislative and safety issues that impact schools.

Batt received his Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and his Master of Education degrees from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

"I believe a successful school is one that engages students and facilitates their growth toward college or career readiness," Batt said. "A great school develops lifelong learners. Today's students can find the answer to any question on the internet with a touch of a button. Finding the answer should not be the only goal. Our goal should be to develop lifelong learners that seek the why and the how. This will allow our students to adapt, grow and succeed no matter the future circumstances."

In November the Berryhill Board of Education launched an online survey and held multiple virtual focus groups that allowed parents, residents, and staff to provide input about the qualities that mattered most to them in the next superintendent.

"We received great input from the community and staff throughout the search process," Lollis said. "It was encouraging to see that the expectations of the board and the expectations of the community were aligned. It was clear from the community survey and focus groups that we wanted a proactive leader with integrity, who builds strong relationships with staff, students and the community and is committed to taking Berryhill to the next level. Mr. Batt fits this profile very well and has the background, skills, knowledge and temperament necessary to succeed."

Batt concluded, "I am incredibly grateful to join the Berryhill family. It is such a wonderful community, and my family is excited to call Berryhill home very soon. I look forward to attending games, concerts and other school events and meeting as many members of our community as possible."

Batt will succeed current Superintendent Mike Campbell, who will continue to serve through June 30.

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