



Granger Independent School District

Celebrating 133 Years of Public Education 1887-2020

Press Release 2.25.21:

Granger Board selects Jeni Neatherlin as the Lone Finalist for next Superintendent.

Granger ISD is pleased to announce Ms. Jeni Neatherlin as the lone finalist for the next Superintendent of Schools of the District. She will be succeeding Randy Willis who is retiring at the end of March after 9 years as the district superintendent. Ms. Neatherlin is currently the Chief Operations Officer at Salado ISD.

The selection is the result of a statewide search that produced 46 qualified applicants from diverse geographic and professional backgrounds. We are extraordinarily pleased with the outcome of this search process. In the end, Ms. Neatherlin proved herself the best fit to carry forward the vision of the District. Her track record of driving academic excellence, along with her passion for working with students and families in her previous communities, all demonstrate her capability as a successful educational leader. School Board President Tommy Filla stated "We are elated to have found someone with Jeni Neatherlin's credentials. We are confident Granger will not only remain a leader in public school education but will continue to be proactive in the ever-evolving education environment. Pride in Excellence will continue to be a driving force in our district."

Jeni Neatherlin currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer for Salado ISD, helping lead the completion of construction projects for the district. Before that, she led Llano High School as the High School Principal and has also worked in Midland ISD as the Principal of Abell Junior High. Previous administrative roles include Associate Principal and Assistant Principal at Midland Lee. Ms. Neatherlin taught English at the Secondary level for ten years and was a head coach prior to making the jump into administration. She earned a bachelor's degree from Angelo State University and a Master of Educational-Administration from Lamar University.

As the district's top educational leader, Ms. Neatherlin has a track record of high achievement. In her 4 years at Llano High School, they were on the U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools list 3 out of her 4 years there. She facilitated Instruction that led to Advanced Placement Scores in 2020 that were over 30 % above state average and over 20% above the global average, as well as SAT and ACT scores above national and global average. Her team implemented 5 Career and Technical Education Programs for kids to earn Workforce Readiness Certifications. Neatherlin also hired Athletic and Band Program Directors that turned around their programs leading to a football State Semi Finals appearance for Llano, the first in program history and state appearance in band. Llano ISD was one of only 62 traditional school districts that earned a Post-Secondary Readiness Distinction in 2019. Llano High School repeatedly earned at least 5 Academic Achievement Distinctions on Accountability each year during her tenure.

At Abell, a feeder school for Midland Lee, she led improvement of school removal from Low Performing Schools (PEG) status in 2 years. Under Neatherlin's leadership, Abell went from #37 in their TEA comparison group of 40 to #7 in 2 years. Her campus saw growth of 31 points in the four domains for state accountability in 2016.

During her career, Ms. Neatherlin has been recognized throughout the state and nationally as an exceptional educational leader. Her accolades include the 2020 Highland Lakes, Locals Love Us, Educator of the Year Recipient, 2019 H-E-B Excellence in Education Principal's Award State Semi-Finalist, a Former Life Changer of the Year Nominee, and an Honorary PTA Lifetime Member Award Recipient.

Ms. Neatherlin is thrilled to be working with the Granger ISD school board, parents, staff, students, and the Granger community. "I am fired up to be a Lion and wear the purple and gold with pride. We have a lot to look forward to in Granger ISD."