



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2021

Contact: Donna Holmes,
Director of Community Relations
dholmes@palisadessd.org
610-847-5131, ext. 2401

O'CONNELL APPROVED FOR 5 YEAR CONTRACT:

Dr. Bridget O'Connell has been at the helm of Palisades School District since 2011 when awarded her first contract as Superintendent. Prior to serving in this capacity, she was the Assistant Superintendent for four years.

Also having taught at Palisades before assuming the role of Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs at Quakertown Community School District, Dr. O'Connell has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Palisades and the needs of this very special community. Her work as the educational leader of the district has opened countless doors for students in programs such as the Career Pathways Programs at the high school, online learning through the Palisades Cyber Academy for all grades, and monitoring student performance through LinkIt and MAP testing to assist with better planning and support for our students. Additionally, she has facilitated district and community group meetings to promote relationships and strategic planning including: emergency management, legislative, parent, employee and students.

During this past year, through her unwavering leadership, all schools opened for face-to-face and online learning at the beginning of this school year; the only exception was the high school which was delayed for face-to-face instruction due to construction delays with a newly renovated science wing. Our students and their families have enjoyed successes both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities during this challenging year of COVID. By adhering to the Health and Safety Plan, which was prepared by her team and Board approved, schools remained open throughout the school year.

During the past ten years of her tenure, fiscal conservatism has also been a focus for Dr. O'Connell and the administrative team at Palisades. Working with the Board, there have been 3 years with a zero percent increase and 7 years with increases of less than one percent for the district's annual operating budget. Maintaining zero or below one percent increases annually is a feat in and of itself, particularly in a climate where retirement costs are at an all time high and costs associated with cyber charter schools (not Palisades cyber programs) continue to increase and divert funding from other important programs. Additionally, Dr. O'Connell has

remained actively engaged with our state legislators to promote bills that support Palisades students and residents.

From Dr. O'Connell, "I'd like to thank the Board for approving a new contract and share that I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this community in my role as Superintendent. It is incredibly rewarding to work with our students, families, teachers, staff, administrators and the School Board to provide the best possible academic and extracurricular experience possible, while maintaining fiscal responsibility for all district residents. There is no doubt that this has been an extremely challenging year for all of us, but our ability to work together as a team with our focus on our students is what I love most about the Palisades School District."

####