



New District Superintendent Announced

The Winterset Community School Board is pleased to announce that Justin Gross has accepted their offer to serve as their next superintendent. Justin was excited to accept the position, saying, "I am humbled and excited to be the next Superintendent of Winterset CSD. Throughout the entire process of researching the district and learning more about what it had to offer my family it became clear that this is a great district that anyone would be lucky to serve. My wife and I are looking forward to becoming part of the community. I am looking forward to joining the Winterset team and working with them to build upon our strengths and addresses the challenges we face. I just want to thank everyone who participated in the interview and hiring process during these unprecedented times. Go Huskies!"

Justin is in his fourth year as Associate Superintendent of School Improvement at Nevada CSD. Previously he served as High School Principal at Nevada for six years, three years as Secondary Co-Principal and one year as Associate Principal at Missouri Valley CSD, and five years as a Teacher, Coach, and Athletic Director at Griswold CSD. While at Nevada, Justin has led multiple initiatives - Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW), Professional Learning Communities, RSVP (Raising Student Voice and Participation), personalized professional development, 1:1 initiative, and concept-based learning and teaching. He also works closely with community and local business/industry leaders to identify ways for students to work beside them through internships, project-based learning, and student enterprises.



Justin earned his Bachelor's Degree in Science from Briar Cliff College, Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Certificate of Advanced Studies with Superintendent Licensure from Iowa State University, and anticipates his PhD in Educational Leadership from Iowa State University in 2023.

Justin and his wife, Mel, have three children - twin daughters Avery and Addison (age 11) and son Drew (age 8). Justin and his wife enjoy watching their children in numerous athletic activities and spending time together as a family. Justin enjoys hunting, fishing, and golfing during his free time.

On Tuesday, April 7, three finalists for the Winterset Superintendent's position interviewed with the School Board, mixed interview team (electronically), and toured district and community facilities. Following completion of interviews and tours, the board considered feedback from various stakeholders during the formal interview process. Stakeholders representing support staff, parents, community leaders, teachers and administrators provided clear feedback to the board to advise their hiring decision. The feedback highlighted clear strengths Justin could offer the district. Board President, Jeff Nicholl said, "We are thrilled to have Justin joining us as our next superintendent and for he and his family to become part of the Winterset community. Justin clearly checked all the boxes of the desired qualifications we

were looking for - and he also checked all the boxes for each of the stakeholder groups who provided feedback from the interview process. I want to thank all the people who participated on the mixed interview team and provided invaluable feedback to us. Join us in welcoming Justin and his family to the Husky family.”

Justin will officially begin his duties on July 1, 2020, and will transition with Superintendent Dr. Susie Meade prior to July 1st. The board was supported in the search by Grundmeyer Leader Services consultants Dr. Trent Grundmeyer and Dr. Kevin Fiene.