



Henry Hudson Tri-District- 1 Grand Tour- Highlands, NJ 07732

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2021

Dr. Tara Beams Appointed as Next Tri-District Superintendent

The Boards of Education of the Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, and Henry Hudson Regional School Districts that make up the Tri-District voted last night to appoint Dr. Tara Beams as the next Superintendent of Schools, replacing Dr. Susan Compton, who announced in July that she will retire at the end of this school year.

With the appointment as Superintendent for the Tri-District, Dr. Beams is certainly bringing her career in education full-circle. After several years as a public relations executive in New York City, Dr. Beams began her career in education as a long-term substitute at Highlands Elementary School and was eventually hired as a fourth grade teacher in the Long Branch Public School District. After four years in grade 4, Dr. Beams moved to Long Branch Middle School where she used her background in performing arts, television production and media studies as the theater and television production teacher for grades 6-8. She was quickly promoted to head teacher for the visual and performing arts department and was eventually named the 2008 Long Branch Public School Teacher of the Year as well as Monmouth County Teacher of the Year. Dr. Beams decided to enter high school education and was hired as the media studies and television production teacher for Sayreville Public Schools. She also was one of four teachers selected to lead the Peer Leadership program and was trained by the Peer Group program and the Princeton Center for Leadership training. As an aspiring leader, Dr. Beams also became the professional development supervisor for Sayreville HS and led the implementation of school-wide PLCs, the district's mentoring program and began the implementation of the high school's first blended learning environment.



"I am so honored and extremely humbled to be given the distinguished opportunity to lead the Henry Hudson Tri-District educational community and work collaboratively with and learn from the incredible administrators, teachers, staff, families, community members, and, most importantly the STUDENTS."

In 2012, Dr. Beams advanced her career with her first administrative position as the Principal of the Gerald H. Woehr Elementary School in the Plumsted Township School District. As principal, Dr. Beams led the staff in the transition to the Common Core Standards, redefined the K-5 basic skills program and designed and implemented data-driven, authentic assessment and progress monitoring protocols to ensure student achievement and articulation amongst the grade levels. This work led to Dr. Beams' appointment by the Edison Public School District where she served as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, PK-5, serving approximately 7400 students and 585 staff members over 13 PK-5 buildings. In Edison, Dr. Beams successfully implemented a 1:1 technology initiative for all grades K-5 in just under two years. This led to a full digital transformation of all curricula, fully implementing digital resources for grades 3-5, while using a blend



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of traditional and digital resources in grades K-2. Dr. Beams also led her team to develop rigorous, inquiry-based, comprehensive K-5 curricula in all content areas to support technology implementation and a blended learning model of instruction. The work completed in Edison by Dr. Beams and her team was the subject of case studies conducted by Lexia Learning, Amazon Education and was featured at conferences led by Discovery Education. In 2017, Dr. Beams was published in *eSchoolNews* for her expertise and success in implementing blended learning environments.

Most recently, Dr. Beams has been serving as both the Assistant Superintendent and Acting Superintendent for the Monmouth Ocean-Educational Services Commission and the Bayshore Jointure Commission's Shore Center for Students with Autism. In this role, Dr. Beams has successfully implemented innovative special education programs and has worked collaboratively with her leadership team and staff to implement technology, community-based learning opportunities and vocational training for general education students and students with autism. As acting superintendent, Dr. Beams serves on the Monmouth County Superintendent's Equity Committee and the Monmouth County Women in Educational Leadership Committee. One of her most cherished roles is as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Monmouth Ocean Foundation for Children, an organization who is currently raising funds and developing a continuing education and vocational skills training program for adults with autism.

Dr. Beams has been an adjunct professor at Monmouth University in the School of Communications, was a member and President and Vice President of the Long Branch Board of Education and was a member of the Amazon Education Advisory Board. A graduate of Wall High School, Dr. Beams earned her B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications from Rutgers University, a Master's in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix and in 2017, she earned Ed.D. in e-Learning and Technology from Northcentral University.

Dr. Beams is an avid musical theater performer and soccer enthusiast. She lives with her husband Daniel, their 14-year-old daughter, Tess and their SATO mix, Mina in Oceanport, NJ.

Dr. Compton is confident that Dr. Beams will take the Tri-District to the next level of academic excellence and stated that it will be a smooth transition to new leadership. Dr. Compton also expressed her thanks to the Tri-District administration, staff, students, and community for all of their support over the past eight years.