



## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Laveen Superintendent, Dr. Bill Johnson, to Retire in 2020 Board Appoints Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeff Sprout as his Successor**

(December 13, 2019) Laveen School District Superintendent, Dr. Bill Johnson, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2020. Laveen's Governing Board approved the retirement at their December 12 meeting.

Following the board's approval of Dr. Johnson's retirement, Governing Board President Jill Barragan nominated Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Jeff Sprout, as Dr. Johnson's permanent replacement. The Governing Board unanimously approved her motion.

In a letter to the district staff, Mrs. Barragan expressed her gratitude to Dr. Johnson and reflected on his many accomplishments during his 15-year tenure with Laveen.

"It is Dr. Johnson's leadership that has brought Laveen schools to where they are today. Laveen has implemented many successful initiatives since he joined us back in 2005. In 15 years we have seen the district grow from one that was virtually unknown outside of our immediate community to one that is widely recognized for its many achievements and innovative programs, as well as having a voice in state level policy decisions. These accomplishments take years of dedication and determination. We are fortunate to have had a superintendent that was so deeply committed to the Laveen District and community as a whole."

Dr. Johnson has served the Laveen School District since 2005 when he was hired to fill the business manager role. In 2011 he was named Superintendent.

Under his leadership, the district has seen many changes, including:

- The district has grown from four schools and 2,200 students to eight schools and 7,400 students
- Classrooms have moved from chalkboard and overhead projector technology to a computing device for every student
- Updated curriculum has been adopted in all core subject areas
- All schools have implemented successful signature programs
- Laveen schools have become "schools of choice" since the opening of attendance boundaries
- Laveen has been recognized on the state and national levels for numerous programs and achievements

In his announcement to the staff, Dr. Johnson noted “It has been a great privilege to work with so many wonderful people over the past 15 years. Together we have accomplished many positive things for our schools, the students, and the community. I feel very grateful to have been a part of the important work being accomplished by our schools and school district. I know that as much as we have accomplished, there remains a tremendous potential to continue to improve, progress, and to do much good.”

Barragan cited Dr. Sprout’s experience and commitment to the Laveen District and community in her nomination. “Dr. Sprout has served our district for over six years and has been dedicated to making Laveen a great place to work for our staff in the areas of recruitment, retention, benefits, and leadership development. He has been actively involved in the community, serving in the Laveen Lions Club and has chaired the Laveen Community Parade for four years. He has volunteered many hours in developing the Laveen Education Foundation and has supported the last several bond and override measures,” she wrote.

“I am humbled by the opportunity the Board has granted me. For almost seven years, I have enjoyed working closely with Dr. Johnson to make Laveen a great place to work and live. I look forward to working with the incredible Laveen staff as we continue to create bright futures for all Laveen students,” Dr. Sprout stated following the appointment.

Before joining Laveen, Dr. Sprout was a teacher, principal, and Director of STEM Research and Development in the Alhambra District. He was the recipient of the Excellence in Education teaching award, Rodel Exemplary Principal Award, and, along with his staff, received the A+ School of Excellence Award. He completed his doctoral program at Arizona State University.

“I have no doubt that Dr. Sprout will continue Dr. Johnson’s trajectory of building a successful and highly respected school district,” added Barragan.

Dr. Sprout will begin as Superintendent on July 1, 2020.

