

September 21, 2010

Dr. Craig Lockhart Named Principal of Newton High School

Following interviews on September 20, the Board of Education unanimously approved Newton County School Superintendent Gary Mathews' nominee, Dr. Craig Lockhart, to become the permanent Principal of Newton High School effective October 18, 2010.

"Newton High is rich in history, tradition, and pride," said Dr. Lockhart. "I am honored to serve as this school's next principal. I look forward to taking this wonderful school to greater heights. The school's mission is 'Every Child, Every Chance,' and I intend to support that mission to the fullest by working closely with teachers and students in the learning process.

"Craig Lockhart is one of Georgia's outstanding leaders-for-learning at this time," said Mathews. "We are most fortunate that he desires his children to grow up and learn in Newton County. Most importantly, he brings a commitment to instructional improvement at Newton High. For him, it is about the learning!"

Dr. Lockhart is in his 13th year in public education, having previously served as a high school and middle school teacher and elementary principal in the Taylor County Schools in Butler, Georgia. He has also been a middle school assistant principal in the DeKalb County Schools in Decatur, Georgia, and is currently the assistant superintendent for student support services in the Bibb County Schools in Macon, Georgia.

A National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), Dr. Lockhart was *Teacher of the Year in DeKalb County* in 2001 and recipient of the prestigious *Georgia Association of Educational Leaders' Jim Puckett Outstanding Educator of the Year Award for Elementary Principals* in 2009.

"Dr. Lockhart's track record as a teacher and administrator is very impressive on many levels including, most importantly, those related to improving student achievement," said Mathews. "His leadership moving a school from a Needs Improvement-6 status under No-Child-Left-Behind to that of a Title I Distinguished School in 2009 has earned Dr. Lockhart the attention and admiration of many around Georgia and elsewhere. Strong on accountability and building relationships with students, staff, and the community, Dr. Lockhart, I believe, has a grasp of instructional matters in such a way as to be of great benefit to Newton High School."



Dr. Craig Lockhart, current Assistant Superintendent for Support Services in Bibb County Schools, will assume permanent principal duties at Newton High School on October 18, 2010.

“As a former resident of Covington, I look forward to returning to this supportive community,” said Dr. Lockhart. “I am extremely excited to be a part of the Newton family!”

Dr. Lockhart holds a B.S. degree in biology from Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, a M.Ed. degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University in Atlanta, and both a Specialist and Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in Sarasota, Florida. He is married and has three children.

Superintendent Mathews concluded, “I am most grateful for the service that Dr. Carl Skinner, Interim Principal, has given to Newton High School. Without question, he is the consummate gentleman and scholar.”

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