

News from Stamford Public Schools

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For immediate release

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Board of Education Approves Contract Extension for Superintendent

The Stamford Board of Education has approved a one-year extension to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr's contract, continuing his employment agreement to June 30, 2012.

According to Board of Education President Susan Nabel, "I am happy to have the opportunity to reaffirm our support for the vision, tenacity, and energy Dr. Starr brings to Stamford. Our unanimous endorsement of the extension is testament to our faith in his ability to raise the achievement of all Stamford's students."

Since Dr. Starr was hired in 2005, he has put Stamford Public Schools on the road to excellence. With the help of a \$15.3 million GE Developing Futures™ grant, the district implemented new standards-based curricula in math and science, increased time for teacher collaboration, improved science facilities in secondary schools, and introduced data-based decision making. Under his leadership, the district also implemented new standards-based curricula in middle and high school literacy, physical education, and fine arts. More high school students are taking AP courses with the help of a \$600 million Project Opening Doors grant. This spring, Dr. Starr introduced a transformative new plan for middle school education that will end a decades-long practice of tracking students according to ability. Finally, the district's leadership capacity has expanded thanks to a partnership with the Panasonic Foundation/Connecticut Center for School Change.

"The extension of Dr. Starr's contract sends a clear message that the Board is committed to the direction that he is taking Stamford Public Schools," said board member Jackie Heftman. "We intend to stay the course, which we believe will raise the bar for all children."

According to Dr. Starr, "I'm thrilled that the Board extended my contract for another year. I believe that our investments in improving teaching and learning in all Stamford schools are starting to pay off. I'm very pleased that the Board supports our direction."

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