



NEWS RELEASE

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Next superintendent receives unanimous vote of confidence by NACS School Board

Fort Wayne, Ind. (June 7, 2022) –Northwest Allen County Schools officials confirmed Wayne Barker as the district’s next superintendent; he will begin his tenure July 1.

“I feel privileged to come full circle by returning to NACS as superintendent,” Barker said. “My intention is to build on the many strengths we already have including strong curriculum, extracurricular/cocurricular activities and athletics. Each of these strengths nurture the talents and passions of our students thanks to the expertise of our teachers and caring support staff. I’m eager to begin my next chapter with NACS.”

Barker and his wife, Vicki, a retired family and consumer sciences teacher, are in the process of relocating to Fort Wayne from Granger, Ind. Together they have three adult children and two grandchildren – Zan Haudenschild (husband Sheldon), Taylor McKinley (husband Jacob, son Liam Wayne, and daughter Evie), and Collin Barker (wife Kelly).

“We’re thrilled to bring such a solid superintendent to continue the NACS legacy,” said Dr. Steve Yager, temporary superintendent, NACS. Yager served as the superintendent of NACS for 19 years, returning for the past five months to help the district secure its next leader; he will relinquish his post the end of June.

“We welcome Wayne and his family with great excitement, and we look forward to working with him,” said Ron Felger, NACS School Board president.

From 1989 to 1994, Barker was a business teacher for Carroll High School, and he was an assistant baseball coach for three years, assistant boys’ basketball coach for five years, in addition to serving as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Sponsor and the Junior Class Sponsor.

Barker was recently awarded the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents’ District II Superintendent of the Year for 2023, an honor he received once before in another part of the state. He was Superintendent of the Year for District VI in 2018 when he led the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District from 2009-2019.

Barker obtained his bachelor’s degree in business education from Ball State University in 1989 and his master’s degree in educational administration in 1998. He completed his specialist in education degree in educational leadership in 2006, thus, acquiring his superintendent’s license.

Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports, and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence. More information about NACS may be found at nacs.k12.in.us. NACS serves an estimated 7,922 students in 11 schools spanning three townships in Allen County, Ind.

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