



Office of the Superintendent

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

September 6, 2019

Northwood Hills Elementary Parents,

As promised, I would like to offer an update on the principal status at Northwood Hills.

I met today with Ms. Tavarez, and we had a very good conversation about her status at Northwood Hills. To provide context, I think it's important for you to know that early this school year, Ms. Tavarez met with RISD leadership staff and indicated her desire to depart as principal. We wanted her to be certain of her decision, so we asked her to take extra time to think about it, and after several days she reiterated a desire to no longer serve in the role of principal. That decision resulted in her announcement last week that she would no longer be the principal of Northwood Hills, and at that time, I asked retired RISD Principal Staci Low to serve as interim principal.

I felt we had a positive, productive discussion today, and after evaluating all the information available to me, including direct feedback from a number of Northwood Hills parents and staff, I, along with Ms. Tavarez, feel like it's in the best interest of Northwood Hills that we move forward with her original decision to change leadership.

I care about Ms. Tavarez and very much appreciate her service in RISD and efforts on behalf of Northwood Hills students. She has a tremendous heart for kids and an opportunity to transition to a role where she can use her strong instructional background to directly work with and benefit students.

Moving forward, I want to ensure that the next principal is exactly the right fit for Northwood Hills students, teachers, staff, and community. To that end, our next steps will include:

- Staci Low will continue to serve as interim principal.
- RISD Human Resources will post the position today.
- We are extending the window for parents and staff to express interest in serving on the principal profile committee. If you are interested in serving, please contact Shawna.Ballast@risd.org by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10.
- The principal profile committee will meet on September 12 to develop the profile that will be used to evaluate principal candidates.
- Our goal is for the process to be completed and to announce a new principal by the end of September.

Thank you to those who have shared your feedback as we have worked through this situation, and I am hopeful that you will remain involved as we work through the principal selection process and beyond.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Stone Ed.D.
Superintendent