

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DR. JASON WATT NAMED BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BY
WASATCH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

HEBER CITY, UT - The Wasatch County School District (WCSD) Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Jason Watt as the District's next Business Administrator at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Dr. Watt is the current WCSD Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Student Services, and will replace the current Business Administrator, Keith Johansen, who will retire on September 30, 2023, after 28 years in his position with the District.



Dr. Watt began his 25-year career in WCSD as a school counselor at Wasatch High School and Wasatch Mountain Junior High, then serving as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Wasatch High School. In his current role, Dr. Watt has managed the CTE and Student Services budgets, which include teachers, aides, counselors and psychologists throughout the District, for the past 11 years.

The Business Administrator and Superintendent are the only two positions in the District hired by the Board of Education. To equitably facilitate the process, the Utah School Boards Association posts and manages openings for these positions in each school district across the state.

WCSD Board President Tom Hansen explained that three qualified applicants were invited to interview for the role, with Dr. Watt's experience and "on the job" training positioning him as the lead candidate.

"Jason, throughout the interview process, did something that no other candidate was able to do," President Hansen explained. "What he was able to do was live the process over the last 25 years, and I've always said you interview for your next role every day. Whatever you can display and whatever kind of answers you can come up with in 45 minutes (in an interview) ... will never be the resume that you build over a lifetime of getting up going to work and being consistent day in and day out. The definition of consistency, reliability, dependability is Jason Watt in his career at Wasatch County School District over two decades."

Superintendent Paul Sweat highlighted Dr. Watt's contributions across the District, noting he frequently supports projects and departments outside of his own, bringing knowledge and insight borne from experience.

"Jason is so well prepared for this job," said Superintendent Sweat. "We are excited for what he's going to achieve and, as the Superintendent, I look forward to working side-by-side with him to help the Board of Education achieve its goals for student achievement and teacher compensation."

A native of Pingree, Idaho, Dr. Watt graduated from Snake River High School in 1990. He attended Brigham Young University, earning his B.S. Summa Cum Laude in Psychology with a minor in business in 1996, followed by an M.S. in Counseling and School Psychology in 1999. Dr. Watt earned an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah in 2007, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Utah State University in 2018. He has been married to his wife, Christy, for nearly 29 years. The couple has five children ranging in age from 24-14, all of whom attended or are attending WCSD schools.

"I have been blessed with the unique opportunity to be part of this school district for each of my now 25-year career in education. At each step on my Wasatch journey, I've worked with exceptional educators, and, through this two-decade long work study, I've learned some essential leadership truths that would guide my work as Business Administrator," Dr. Watt said. "I love Wasatch County School District, and I'm proud to have been an integral part of the work of transforming this district from a small, rural district to one looked to by state and national educators as a leader in many important 21st-Century initiatives."

Upon his retirement in September of this year, Mr. Johansen will have been the longest-serving BA in the history of the District, surpassing by four months Ula Clegg, who served from August 1919 until August 1947. Under his guidance, the District's financial health and management has earned numerous accolades.

About Wasatch County School District

Established in 1898, Wasatch County School District commits to preparing every student for career and college readiness by building confident, accomplished and literate graduates. WCSD serves more than 8,000 students at nine schools, including [Daniels Canyon Elementary](#), [Heber Valley Elementary](#), [J.R. Smith Elementary](#), [Midway Elementary](#), [Old Mill Elementary](#), [Wasatch Learning Academy](#), [Rocky Mountain Middle School](#), [Timpanogos Middle School](#), and [Wasatch High School](#).