



## **Martensdale-St. Marys School Board Names 3 Finalists for Next District Superintendent**

**December 5, 2022**

MARTENSDALE, IOWA — The Martensdale-St. Marys School Board has named three finalists in its search for the district's next superintendent. The finalists are Chris Fenster, Joshua Heyer, and Dr. William Watson.

Chris Fenster currently serves as the Superintendent of Southwest Valley Schools in Corning and Villisca. Some highlights of his experience include implementing Professional Learning Communities and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). He has also successfully passed bond referendums and managed district budgets. Expanding course offerings, especially in career and technical areas, and adoption of new curriculum have been key leadership accomplishments. Previously, he served as the Superintendent for North Linn Community Schools.

Heyer is the current principal of Winterset Junior High School, where he has overseen the day-to-day operations of a campus with 270 students and facilitated the improvement of the school's Iowa School Profile composite score by 6.68 points. Heyer has also mentored first-year middle school principals through the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) mentoring program and is a member of the Raccoon River Conference Junior High Principal Network. Previously, Heyer served as a STEM Master Teacher in the Saydel Community Schools before becoming principal of Woodside Middle School.

As director of activities and community education in the Urbandale CSD, Dr. Watson is responsible for the student activity program, with more than 1,800 students in grades 7-12 involved. He manages all aspects of business operations, is a member of the district leadership team, and leads a personnel and operations management team responsible for the direction of the activities and community education departments. Dr. Watson previously served Urbandale CSD as lead administrator in the absence of the superintendent.

Board members have been working with [Grundmeyer Leader Services](#) to conduct the search. There were 17 total candidates, including four who hold a doctorate degree. As a next step, the board and stakeholder interview teams will conduct final interviews with each of the three finalists on Thursday, December 8. The board will then discuss the candidates and reach a final decision soon after the formal interviews.

The next superintendent will begin serving the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District effective July 3, 2023.