

NOMINATION FORM

**2022-23 A Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year
AASA 2023 National Superintendent of the Year**

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION

Name: **Dr. Alisa McLean**

School System: Granville County Public Schools

Mailing Address: 101 Delacroix St

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Oxford, NC 27565

Telephone: (Office: 919 693-4612 Cell: 919 693-4612)

Email: mcleana@gcs.k12.nc.us

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: **Mr David Richardson**

Relationship to Superintendent (i.e. board member, colleague, parent, community member): Board Member

School System: Granville County Public Schools

Mailing Address: 101 Delacroix St

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Oxford, NC 27565

Telephone: (Office: 919 693-4612 Cell: 919 693-4612)

Email: mcleana@gcs.k12.nc.us

Please complete this form and a letter (no more than 2 pages) providing justification and supporting information for your nomination. The letter should include information about the nominee's leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, community involvement, and overall impact on the school district.

Mail or email the completed nomination form and supporting letter by **May 1st** to:

Ed Croom, Central Carolina RESA Executive Director

Mail: Central Carolina RESA, Suite 104, 7208 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27615

Or

Email: croome@ccresa.net

If you have questions, contact Ed Croom (croome@ccresa.net) or Dana Stutzman (stutzmandm@ccresa.net) at 919-882-5951.



Granville County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Committed to Excellence and Achievement for All"

Dr. Ed Croom
Executive Director, Central Carolina RESA
7208 Falls of the Neuse
Suite 104
Raleigh, NC 27615

May 1, 2022

Dear Dr. Croom,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Granville County Board of Education. We are proud to nominate our Superintendent, Dr. Alisa R. McLean for the honor of Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. McLean is nearing completion of her fifth year of service to our district. During this time, she has demonstrated courageous and innovative leadership, an unwavering work ethic and an absolute commitment to all children served in our district.

When she arrived in the summer of 2017, the district faced tremendous challenges. Student enrollment was declining rapidly, academic and literacy outcomes for our students were on the decline, the condition of many of our facilities was shameful, and the relationships with local government were less than ideal. Since her arrival, we have seen steady and significant progress in each of these areas.

First, the trend of the decline in enrollment has slowed, due in large part to innovative programs and a focus on "Excellence" in all areas of the organization. She ushered in the state's first ever blended learning school called "Granville Academy", fostered and strengthened other specialized choice programs (such as IB, The Leader In Me, the Arts, STEM, PLTW, Global Learning) which all have helped spark new excitement and interest in our academic programs. Additionally, she has spotlighted literacy with a laser focus, insisted on new professional development for educators and has brought in creative

programs like the “Book Bus”, Read 20/20, a comprehensive partnership with Scholastic Inc., and a variety of innovative community reading programs.

After only her second month on the job, two of our elementary schools were forced to delay their opening of school due to a severe outbreak of mold. She responded to this crisis by brokering a \$15 million infusion from the county commissioners to address critical upgrades in HVAC systems and major roofing needs in our schools. This work marked the beginning of a restoration of relationships throughout the community. She has been an integral part of steadily improving intergovernmental relationships (both state, county and local municipal) and fostering new partnerships with other community stakeholders, such as ACIM, Granville Health Systems, local civic groups, and local faith-based organizations, just to name a few.

While the Board is very proud of the progress GCPs has made during her tenure, we are especially appreciative of her efforts to successfully navigate the district through the COVID pandemic. Throughout the past two years, she has maintained a consistent, transparent and inclusive approach to decision-making, which relied heavily on a variety of specific data sets. Because of her approach, we believe that the negative impact of the pandemic on our students and staff has been mitigated or avoided as much as possible.

Additionally, her forward thinking prior to the pandemic positioned the district strategically to better serve our students. Her willingness to create alternative structures and options for students has paid dividends across the board during this particularly difficult time. For example, four years ago, Dr. McLean created the first K-12 hybrid school in the state, called Granville Academy. This blended learning school format began by serving just 80 students, attracting many home-school families back to the district by offering flexible, personalized learning opportunities for students. We are now projecting post-pandemic enrollment at the school to surpass 300 students. While this school has provided previously unheard of opportunities for these specific students, it has also caused an “innovative mindset” to expand into all other schools in the district. This work positioned the district well for a shift to remote and blended learning during the pandemic.

As we all know, staffing has been an incredible challenge for districts across the state and country. Dr. McLean is a teacher at heart, and as such, has led the charge to expand recruitment and retention bonuses for all staff across all categories, as well as special incentives for hard-to-fill teacher vacancies in Math, K-5, EC, ESL and AIG. These strategically directed ESSER funds have made an impact in stopping the exodus of qualified and effective teachers from our ranks.

Which brings us to perhaps the **main** reason we are nominating our Superintendent: her vision for the future. We believe in Dr. McLean's focus of transforming GPCS to a school district that will be THE CHOICE for families in our community. This means a shift away from the traditional models of public schools, and a new emphasis on possibility, positivity, and solution-oriented thinking.

Specifically, this means an inevitable transformation in the way we engage students and measure student outcomes, with a mind toward competency-based learning and an collaborative 'opportunity culture' for our educators. High expectations and an equity mindset will also help drive success for our students and our educators. But perhaps the key to these innovations is her willingness and intentionality in involving others in this process. Currently, there are seven task forces which serve to help build upon the district's strategic plan for the future, under which every student will reach his or her potential, prepared to thrive in a changing world.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not mention her ability to secure competitive grant funding. In the past four years, she has secured more than \$12 million for a variety of special projects, which include, but are not limited to:

- 2 devices for every student (one at home, one at school)
- Mi-fi connectivity for 600+ families
- Physical security improvements (buzzer systems, video surveillance, perimeter fencing, etc)
- Leadership development programs
- Technology training for educators

We are indeed proud of Dr. Alisa R. McLean and wholeheartedly believe that she is qualified and deserving of being named the Superintendent of the Year.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Richardson
Chairman, Granville County Public Schools Board of Education