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Incoming Superintendent Joel Boyd Presents Plan for First 100 Days and Announces Transition Team

SANTA FE – Incoming Superintendent Joel Boyd today announced his entry and learning plan, which outlines goals and activities to be accomplished during his first 100 days in office. The incoming superintendent aims to collect information through a series of meetings and listening sessions with a broad range of stakeholders, including parents, students, teachers and principals, to determine the best approach for improving teaching and learning within Santa Fe Public Schools. Furthermore, Boyd plans to review and assess central office operations and services in order to identify opportunities for enhancing and maximizing the effectiveness of central office supports for schools. The entry and learning plan can be accessed on the District's website at: <http://www.sfps.info/superintendent>.

"As we set out on a course of accelerated improvement, it is important that I fully understand the history and current status of the District, including successes and challenges. This entry plan sets an agenda for listening to and learning from parents, students, teachers, administrators, support staff and the broader community," Boyd said. "This is an exciting time for Santa Fe and its public schools, and I am honored to be a part of it."

Additionally, Boyd announced the six members of his transition team, who will advise and assist with implementing the activities outlined within this entry plan, as he takes office Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Collectively, the team brings expertise and leadership in the areas of education, finance, business and law. The entry plan implementation will culminate with a written report and public presentation of the transition team's findings and recommendations.

Dr. Robert Peterkin, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Urban Superintendents Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will serve as the team's chair. Additional members of the transition team include:

- Almudena Abeyta, Assistant Academic Superintendent for Middle and K-8 Schools, Boston Public Schools
- Dr. Arlene Ackerman, CEO/President, The Ackerman Education Strategies Group
- Dr. James Honan, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Maree F. Sneed, Esq., Partner, Hogan Lovells
- Dr. Joseph Wise, Co-founder and Chief Education Officer, Atlantic Research Partners, Inc.

Brief biographies follow.

Robert Peterkin, Professor Emeritus, served as the Director of the Urban Superintendents Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for 19 years. Prior to Harvard, Peterkin held school superintendencies in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Current work focuses on the restructuring of urban public schools for educational equity and higher student achievement. He has also facilitated the entry of several superintendents into their new positions in such districts as Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Montgomery County, Maryland.

Almudena Abeyta began her career in education as a kindergarten teacher in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico. As principal of the Donald McKay K-8 School (McKay) in the Boston Public Schools, Ms. Abeyta led her school to improvement by focusing on data to improve instruction. After four years of her leadership, the McKay was recognized by the Mauricio Gastón Institute, an institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, as an exemplar for educating Latino students. Ms. Abeyta is currently the Assistant Academic Superintendent for the Middle and K-8 Schools in the Boston Public Schools.

Arlene C. Ackerman's more than 40 years of experience as a teacher, principal, chief academic officer and superintendent have made her a national expert on how to close the achievement and opportunity gaps for all students. Dr. Ackerman held the Christian A. Johnson Endowed Chair of Outstanding Educational Practice and served as Director of the Urban Education Leaders Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. In 2010, she received the Council of Great City Schools prestigious Richard R. Green Award, the highest individual honor given to urban school superintendents. Presently, Dr. Ackerman co-facilitates the Superintendents Leadership Academy through the New Mexico Leadership Institute at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

James P. Honan is Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the areas of financial management of nonprofit organizations, organizational performance measurement and management, and higher-education administration. He is also Educational Co-chair of the Institute for Educational Management (IEM) and a faculty member in a number of Executive Education programs. Honan has served as a consultant on strategic planning, resource allocation, and performance measurement and management to numerous colleges, universities, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

Maree Sneed is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Hogan Lovells, where she specializes in education law. She is a former teacher and administrator, and litigated on behalf of school districts in both state and federal courts. She has counseled school districts on the development of policies and plans for English Language Learners and racial and sexual harassment, and assisted school districts in developing court-ordered and voluntary student assignment plans, and magnet plans and policies.

Joseph Wise, co-founder of Atlantic Research Partners, Inc., served as superintendent of the nation's 19th largest school district (Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville, Florida), led Delaware's largest public school district (Christina School District, Wilmington, Delaware), and served as Director of Organizational Development for the Disney organization. Dr. Wise has successfully bridged academic, business and governmental interests to build -and sustain- decisive organizational reforms.