

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PRESS STATEMENT**

The Board of Trustees is very pleased to announce that it unanimously selected Dr. Jaime Hembree to be the Superintendent of McCormick County School District, effective July 1, 2020. Prior to July 1, Dr. Hembree will work closely with current Superintendent Betty Bagley to ensure a smooth transition.

Dr. Hembree has worked in education since 2002. For the past four years, she has served in Lexington School District Three, initially as an elementary school principal, and currently as the Director of Special Services. As principal at Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School, a Title I school, she championed efforts that resulted in a significant increase in student achievement and the school being named a Palmetto's Finest school during her third year. She also has served in a variety of other roles in South Carolina and North Carolina, including assistant principal, instructional coach, and teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Marshall University in West Virginia, and both her Masters and Doctorate of Education degrees at Gardner Webb University in North Carolina.

Dr. Hembree comes from a family of educators and has always been passionate about making a difference in the lives of children. Dr. Hembree has extensive experience in the areas of curriculum and instruction, which is of primary importance to the Board, and is committed to maintaining a focus on providing rigorous instruction to ensure that our students have the skills they need to succeed.

Dr. Hembree and her husband Mike are the proud parents of Ryan Austin Hembree, who currently is serving in the US Navy, and a lab mix dog named Bandit. They are looking forward to moving to McCormick in the near future and becoming a part of the community.

We look forward to Dr. Hembree's arrival and hope that our citizens join us in welcoming her and her family into our community. The Board is hosting a reception to introduce Dr. Hembree on April 6, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the McCormick Elementary/Middle School media center.

Verteema Chiles  
Board Chair

March 10, 2020