

WHAS11.com

Posted on June 14, 2011 at 4:03 PM

Updated today at 7:51 PM

**Related:**

- [Local agencies' criticism over JCPS superintendent candidates heats up](#)
- [Second JCPS superintendent candidate shares vision with public](#)
- [JCPS superintendent finalist Dr. Donna Hargens visits Louisville](#)
- [Superintendent candidate answers public's questions](#)

Louisville, Ky. (WHAS11) - WHAS11 News has learned that JCPS has chosen Dr. Donna Hargens to be the new superintendent.

The school board voted unanimously.

Hargens is the chief academic officer in Wake County Public Schools in North Carolina. It is the 18th largest school district in the nation. She has 20 years of administrative experience. People WHAS11 talked to said they liked that she has experience from a large and diverse district. Hargens said the goal of Wake County Schools is to have students graduate both college and career ready and student achievement would be her focus at JCPS.

She says carrying out the wishes of the board will be her focus, including the student achievement plan.

"This is a wonderful community that wants to support education and that's a place I want to be in," said Hargens.

Mayor Greg Fischer released the following statement regarding the hiring of Superintendent Hargens to lead Jefferson County Public Schools:

"Our city's goal should be to create the best urban school system in the country and I look forward to working with Superintendent Hargens on achieving that," Mayor Greg Fischer said. "It is time for entire community to rally around our school's new leader and move forward together to create a world-class education system."

Members of the NAACP had originally called for the board to reopen the search for a superintendent. They criticized both Hargens and Christine Johns, the other superintendent candidate, for not taking a clear stand on Jefferson County's student assignment plan. Now they say they will support the board's decision and work with Hargens.

Hargens released the following statement:

"I am humbled by being selected as the next Superintendent of the Jefferson County Public School System. The time I spent in the Louisville community has demonstrated to me the genuine support of, and the value that you place on education. I am looking forward to working with the Board and the community to move JCPS to the next level for our students. There are challenges, but there are tremendous opportunities. I am excited that I am going to be part of the future of JCPS. From the Board room to each individual classroom my focus will be on working together to provide a quality education for all students. My husband and I are looking forward to becoming a part of the Louisville community."

Hargens' first day will be August 1.