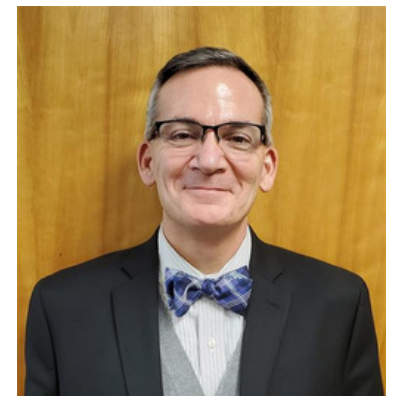


Highlights

Board Names Next Superintendent

At its March 23, 2023 Legislative Meeting, the Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors appointed **Dr. Joseph N. Meloche** as the school district’s next superintendent.



Dr. Meloche has 30 years of experience as an educator, administrator, and superintendent. In 2021, he was named New Jersey’s Superintendent of the Year, and was also selected as New Jersey State Parent Teacher Association Superintendent of the Year in 2018.

Dr. Meloche has been featured in *Education Week* as a “Leader to Learn From,” and also appeared on the cover of a special edition of the publication.

“The Board of School Directors was impressed with Dr. Meloche’s wealth of knowledge in all areas of school district leadership,” said Theresa Napson-Williams, Board President. “He has a proven track record as a thoughtful and innovative leader who will seek continual improvement for our district while being mindful of children first, always.”

In October 2022, the board hired consultant Judith Wilson to conduct the search. The board was committed to a transparent process that prioritized community feedback. Wilson provided surveys to the district’s faculty, parents, and community to get their thoughts on the qualities they were looking for in the next superintendent. There were also in-person and virtual public forums in January, enabling the board to gather input on the priorities of district residents. After the board conducted extensive interviews, Dr. Meloche emerged as the unanimous choice.

(continued on next page)



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Legislative Meeting on March 23, 2023

Board of Education Members

- Theresa Napson-Williams
President
- Ken Dinitz
Vice President
- Hillary Fletcher
- Jackie Gusic
- Susan Henderson-Utis
- Shelley Hunt
- Robert Kelly
- Susan Layne
- Kelly Schaffer

Student Liaisons

- Joy Chen
- Jason Lanka
- Neil Sen

Acting Superintendent

William Dougherty

More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/domain/60

“I am thrilled to join the dedicated faculty and staff of the Rose Tree Media School District,” said Dr. Meloche. “There has been such a discernible sense of pride throughout this process, reflecting the heart of the educational community. I am excited to begin meeting students, families, staff members, and community members as we embark on this journey together.”

Dr. Meloche has served as superintendent of Cherry Hill Public Schools in New Jersey since August 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree at DeSales University, master’s degrees from Holy Family University and Widener University, and his doctorate in education from Widener University.

2023-24 School Year Calendar Approved

No School for Students on June 9, 2023

The **2023-24 school year calendar** was approved by the RTMSD Board of School Directors at its March Legislative Meeting.

The board also approved a change to the **2022-23 school calendar**, making June 9, 2023 a non-student day so that all RTMSD teachers can attend the Penncrest High School graduation ceremony.



RTM Educators and Staff Recognized for Excellence

Mr. William Dougherty, acting superintendent, heralded four Rose Tree Media School District staff members during his report at the March Legislative Meeting.

Referring to her as “one of our many ‘unsung heroes’ within our administrative team,” Mr. Dougherty recognized **Dr. Kimberly LaCoste** (Special Education Supervisor) for receiving the School of Education and Human Services Distinguished Alumni Award from Neumann University.

Mr. Dougherty also announced that three RTMSD teachers won the Franklin Mint Credit Union Excellence in Teaching Award. **Dana Welc** is a First Grade Teacher at Media Elementary School, **Devon Hartzell** is a Special Education Teacher at Springton Lake Middle School, and **Kristen Harkness** is a Kindergarten teacher at Glenwood Elementary School.



Springton Lake Redesignated as a National School to Watch

As mentioned in the student board liaison report at the March Legislative Meeting, the National Forum redesignated **Springton Lake Middle School** as a “**National School to Watch**.”

SLMS is one of 189 middle-grades schools in the United States selected to serve as a model to mentor other schools because of its demonstrated social equity, developmental responsiveness, academic excellence, and innovative systems.

Points of Pride

- At its March Legislative Meeting, the Board of School Directors honored the following Penncrest students:
 - **Samuel M. Kleiman, James B. Sparling, and Benjamin R. Werner** as National Merit Scholarship Finalists. [See photo]
 - The Board presented the Rose Tree Media Award to **Peter Valtos** for earning Eagle Scout recognition. His Eagle Scout project involved designing and installing a trail system at Pond's Edge Residential.
- The Board presented the Penncrest Boys Distance Medley Relay Team (**Brendan Hefferan, Benjamin Holst-Rightley, Rory McAfee, Gavin Mogck**) with the Rose Tree Media Award for their 2nd place state medal. The team is coached by Dion Durnell.
- The Board presented the Penncrest Boys 4 x 800 Relay Team (**Brendan Hefferan, Benjamin Holst-Rightley, Rory McAfee, Kadin Salaria**) with the Rose Tree Media Award for earning a silver medal at States. The team missed Gold by 0.001 and now holds the fifth fastest indoor 4 x 800 time in the United States!
- The Penncrest Freshman Boys Basketball team finished its season with a 16-0 record - undefeated for the first time in school history!
- The Board recognized the retirement of five long-time RTMSD employees:
 - **David Harpell** - School Counselor, Penncrest High School - 36 years of dedicated service
 - **Robin Heckman** - Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Springton Lake Middle School - 20 years of dedicated service
 - **Nancy Novello** - Teacher, Indian Lane Elementary School - 38 years of dedicated service
 - **Marietta Rzone** - English Teacher, Penncrest High School - 11 years of dedicated service
 - **Keith Sharp** - Art Teacher, Glenwood Elementary School - 32 years of dedicated service



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