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NEW LEADERSHIP AT PARENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIONAL

Mickens Named Interim Director

Jackson, Mississippi 5/8/2018

The Board of Directors of Parents for Public Schools (PPS) National organization has named Joann Mickens the Interim Executive Director effective May 1, 2018, following the retirement of Nita Rudy. PPS National Board President Jeanne Jehl said, "Ms. Mickens has been a member of PPS' national senior staff, working with the organization's chapters in communities across the nation and collaboratively with other Mississippi-based nonprofits that support children, families, and the development of strong communities. We know that with Joann in this position, PPS is in very capable hands during this transition."

Joann Mickens has served as Chapter Services Director for PPS National since 2006, working with PPS chapters around the country. Among other projects, Mickens coordinates PPS chapters' multi-year work with the Kettering Foundation exploring what it means to become a "learning center" that encourages democratic practices designed to help communities set direction for and take ownership of accountability for the education of children. When asked about the future of PPS, Mickens said, "Our goal is for PPS to continue in perpetuity because the purpose of public schools and the work of PPS are important to building and sustaining democracy and will never go unneeded. This work is so necessary that it should be sustained far into the future."

As outgoing Executive Director, Nita Rudy started her full-time work with PPS in 2011 playing a critical leadership role in the development and success of the organization. Rudy's leadership significantly strengthened the Schoolhouse to Statehouse Initiative in communities across Mississippi to engage parents in understanding the state's system of financing public schools and becoming advocates for identifying and supporting high quality public education. "When I see a PPS-trained parent appointed to a school board, or running for office, or going back to school to become a teacher and they say their PPS leadership training prepared and inspired them to take those steps, I'm humbled," said Rudy.

The PPS National Board will seek a part-time Executive Director in the near future. "The Board believes strongly that the Schoolhouse to Statehouse Initiative is important for strengthening public education in Mississippi, and that constituents in other states can learn from the work being done here. We believe that this work is essential for the future of high quality public education in the United States," added Jehl. "We expect to circulate a position description by mid-May, and to fill the position by midsummer." Interested applicants may contact Jane Beach, Director of Administrative Services, by emailing jbeach@parents4publicschools.org. Parents for Public Schools National office is located in Jackson, MS, at 125 South Congress St., Suite 1218, Jackson, MS 39201; phone: 1-800-880-1222; website: www.parents4publicschools.org.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Becky Glover at 601-207-0630, or email bglover@parents4publicschools.org