

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2021

Sylva, N.C.

The Jackson County Board of Education is pleased to announce that it has chosen Dr. Dana Ayers to serve as the new Superintendent of Schools beginning June 1, 2021. Dr. Ayers was chosen from a competitive field of 21 applicants.

Dr. Ayers has more than 21 years of experience in North Carolina public schools and comes to us from the Asheville City Schools where she serves as the Chief Academic Officer. In her career she has served public school students as a Principal, Assistant Principal of Instruction and Teacher.

Dr. Ayers earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Belmont Abbey College as well as a Master of Arts degree in School Administration from Western Carolina University. She received an Add-On AIG Licensure from Western Carolina and also earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Additionally, Dr. Ayers has worked with adult learners, serving as an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Elementary and Middle Grades at Western Carolina University.

Dr. Ayers' philosophy of education stems from her desire for students and staff to see their own self-worth and potential. Her vision for Jackson County Schools is for students to succeed academically and prepare for career and college experiences.

"It is a privilege to be selected as the Superintendent of Jackson County Schools. I look forward to collaborating and building strong relationships with the Board of Education, district leadership, dedicated staff, students, and families. I am eager to serve the community in this capacity and am confident Jackson County Schools will thrive."

"My family and I moved here to become part of this strong, local community and it has delivered. Thank you to my husband, Phillip, and children, Josh, Emily, and Truman for supporting my educational journey and my desire to lead in western North Carolina. I am both blessed and humbled to be given this opportunity. More importantly, I commit to working diligently for all stakeholders in Jackson County Schools!"

Dr. Ayers' initial contract is for a four year term.