



For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe Abeyta

Email: joabeyta@sfps.k12.nm.us

Phone: 505-670-5610

SANTA FE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCEPTS RESIGNATION FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Veronica C. Garcia to step in as Interim Superintendent

SANTA FE, N.M. (February 21, 2025) – The Santa Fe Board of Education accepted the resignation of Superintendent Hilario “Larry” Chavez today following allegations made by former Assistant Principal, Amanda Chavez.

“The Board has accepted the resignation of Superintendent Hilario “Larry” Chavez,” said Board President Roman Abeyta. “We took these allegations very seriously from the start and we seek to ensure fairness to all parties.”

The Board voted to accept Superintendent Chavez’s resignation at a Board meeting today by a unanimous vote.

In the interim, Dr. Veronica C. Garcia has agreed to serve as a short-term, acting Superintendent, to ensure stability and lead the key work that must be accomplished in the coming months. Dr. Garcia comes to the district with the knowledge, expertise and experience to guide the district through this transition.

“Our choice of Dr. Veronica Garcia to serve as our Acting Superintendent is to provide stability and ensure our positive work continues while the search is conducted for a new Superintendent,” said Board Vice President Kate Noble.

The Board will engage in a rigorous Superintendent search starting immediately which will include community engagement, to meet the unique needs of our Santa Fe community as we seek to move the district forward on its positive trajectory.

It is the intent of the Board to have a new Superintendent in place no later than July 1, 2025.

The Board also announced that it will continue its due diligence into the complaints from Ms. Amanda Chavez.

This remains an ongoing personnel matter. The Board cannot respond to the allegations as reported in the media, including whether any of her allegations have been “substantiated”.

The Board has attempted to address this issue thoroughly and responsibly, and without disruption to its operations or to the focus on delivering the best possible education to the students in our community.

Timeline of Investigation of Complaint by Licensed Administrator

December 10 – It is the Board’s understanding that Amanda Chavez was granted leave beginning on this date at her request.

December 14 – The Board has a special meeting with an executive session. Authorizes opening of investigation.

January 29 and 30 – Initial investigation report was shown to Board Members, initial review and discussion by Board in executive session on January 30.

Board sought additional information for investigation report.

February 4 – Board received additions to the initial investigation report. Authorizes counsel to have discussion with parties.

February 7 – Additional legal counsel engaged by Board President and Vice President.

February 13 – Board briefed on status of discussions with parties. Discussions ongoing.

February 17 – Amanda Chavez, through her legal counsel, went public with allegations to the media.

#####