



# CALDWELL-WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Christopher Conklin, Ed.D.**, Superintendent of Schools

**Brian McCarthy**, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

July 1, 2021

Dear Caldwell-West Caldwell School Community,

After an extensive and rigorous interview process, the Board of Education has entrusted me with the leadership and success of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools. I am truly grateful and fortunate to have been appointed as the Superintendent of a school district with such an established reputation for excellence. Regrettably, during these unique and uncertain times, I am unable to schedule any in-person “meet and greets” with the community. Hopefully, soon I will have the opportunity to schedule an in-person “meet and greet,” but until that is permitted, I wanted to share a little personal information about myself and provide some details regarding my transition into the role of Superintendent.

My prior educational experiences include several years as a classroom teacher, several years as a member of the Child Student Team as the Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, over 20 years as a school and district administrator, and 10 years as an adjunct professor at William Paterson University. I have been married for over 23 years, have two “adult” children, and a rescue dog named Daizy. My wife is a high school art teacher. My oldest daughter attends Drew University, majoring in psychology, and is the captain of the Women’s Golf Team. My youngest daughter will be attending Montclair State University in the Fall and plans to major in communication. She loves music and plays several instruments, but her favorite is the piano.

I am arriving in the Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools during an interesting and challenging time in education. To face these challenges head-on it is essential to have open communication and to collaborate with the whole school community. This communication and collaboration will help to ensure that the district makes informed decisions that build upon the established foundations of excellence and keep the existing traditions intact. As a leader, it is my responsibility to lead strategic planning activities that develop both short-term and long-term plans that generate educational innovations and safeguard each student’s access to high-quality instruction along with 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology tools to support learning.

Despite the difficulties and challenges faced this past school year, I recognize a continuous and strong commitment from the Board of Education, staff, and parents to each student’s academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and ensuring a positive, healthy, and safe learning environment. Over these past several months as I became familiar with Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools, I recognize each stakeholders’ commitment to instructional excellence, technology, social-emotional supports, and the desire to create equitable access for ALL students. I am confident that I will not only maintain all the outstanding academic programs, services, supports, and traditions that are the cornerstone of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools but to grow and expand the academic programs, technology access, social-emotional supports, and extracurricular activities for ALL students from preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Hopefully, along this journey, we can create some new traditions.

Sincerely,

*Christopher Conklin*

Christopher Conklin, Ed.D.  
Superintendent Caldwell-West Caldwell School District  
*One Voice and One Vision Elevating Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools*