

South Kitsap selects Winter as new superintendent

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SOUTH KITSAP — The South Kitsap school board on Thursday selected Tim Winter as the district's new superintendent.

Winter has been superintendent of Clarkston School District since 2014 and is a former Peninsula School District principal and assistant principal.

Winter was one of three finalists selected by the board following a months-long search to replace outgoing Superintendent Karst Brandsma, [who will retire](#) at the end of this school year.

More: [Central Kitsap School District seeks funding for event center](#)

"Mr. Winter is a relational leader with an obvious passion for education," said school board President Rebecca Diehl. "He has a strong background in nurturing the adults in a school system so they can take care of the students. He understands the proud history of South Kitsap and has a strong vision and ability to lead us forward into the future."

Winter said he is impressed with the programs, activities and athletic opportunities for students in South Kitsap. He cited the district's International Baccalaureate and STEM-focused programs among those that promote student success, and he said the district's emphasis on the arts as well as non-traditional athletic opportunities makes for a well-rounded education for students.



The South Kitsap School District school board has selected Tim Winter as its next superintendent. He is currently superintendent of the Clarkston School District. *(Photo: South Kitsap School District)*

"My goal is for these programs to continue to thrive and support student achievement into the future," Winter said in a news release from the district. "I have a vision that the South Kitsap School District will be one of the top five school districts in the state."

Diehl said longevity in a superintendent was important to the board, and public comments reflected that priority. The district has had four superintendents — two

including Brandsma hired as interims — over the past decade. Diehl said the board strongly factored the likelihood that candidates will offer stability to the district.

Winter, 52, said he's committed for the long haul.

"My wife Kristen and I are thrilled with the opportunity to lay down long-term roots and become active members in the South Kitsap community," he said. "We see this as a destination, not a step along the way, and we do see it as a long-term commitment."