



NEWS ADVISORY

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Lansing School District Board of Education agrees to leave of absence for Acting Superintendent Dr. Mark Coscarella – Dr. Delsa Chapman named Interim Acting Superintendent

(Lansing, MI) – Lansing School District Board of Education has agreed to Acting Superintendent Mark Coscarella’s request to be placed on voluntary paid non-disciplinary administrative leave until further notice while a full and fair investigation and search to replace retiring superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul is underway. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Delsa Chapman will serve as Interim Acting Superintendent.

“Today I have voluntarily requested the Lansing Board of Education place me on paid administrative leave from the Lansing School District while an investigation focused on the false allegation about me is underway,” Coscarella said. “I have asked ... for leave because it is important for the district and Board of Education to continue their mission without distractions while I work around the clock to clear my name and prove my innocence. My lawyers are pursuing litigation for libel and slander against me.”

The Board of Education approved a resolution at a meeting tonight that reads in part: “Placement on paid administrative leave does not assume guilt on your (Dr. Coscarella) part. Paid administrative leave will facilitate a prompt and thorough investigation while also protecting your interests during the investigation by affording you an opportunity to focus on responding to the allegations. It is my understanding (Board President Rachel Willis) that you agree placement on paid administrative leave will serve the interests of the District and you pending the outcome of the independent investigation ... You may be asked during the term of this paid administrative leave to appear for interviews or to provide information periodically throughout the process until the investigation is complete and a determination is made.”

Dr. Delsa Chapman has been employed in the Lansing School District for more than 28 years and has been the Deputy Superintendent, has served as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Director of the Magnet school program, principal and teacher. To view the full Board of Education statement, go online to www.Lansingschools.net

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