



**Contact:**

Allison Scott  
Communications Specialist  
719.359.2319  
ascott@mssd14.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Manitou Springs School District 14 parts ways with Superintendent, tentative plan in place**

**Manitou Springs, CO** - At a Special Meeting on Friday, January 20, the MSSD14 Board of Education voted to approve a separation agreement with Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Domangue.

Dr. Domangue and all the board members unanimously, mutually, and amicably agreed to this decision, and she agreed to support the district, as needed, during the transition until June 30th.

Assistant Superintendent Eric McMartin will fill-in as interim until a plan is finalized. The board will be discussing interim leadership on Monday afternoon (January 23).

Dr. Domangue's accomplishments do not go unnoticed. She joined the district as Superintendent three and a half years ago.

"It has truly been an honor to serve the students, staff, and families of Manitou Springs School District. I look forward to continuing my focus and advocacy for each and every child and public schools in Colorado and beyond." Dr. Elizabeth Domangue said in a letter to families and school staff on Friday.

In a letter to key stakeholders, MSSD14 Board of Education President Natalie Johnson spoke about Dr. Domangue saying, "Her systemic work on curriculum and instruction and multi-tiered systems of support for students will continue to support learning for years to come. Tackling COVID and other unprecedented events, she kept our students in the classroom and managed our schools in ways that have now been adopted nationally."

Dr. Domangue wrote about some of the accomplishments she and the district had during her time of service:

- The development of strong district, school, and department Action Plans that prioritize our Core Values of Relationships, Deep-Learning, and Opportunity while continuously focusing on reaching our Strategic Outcomes. The District Performance Framework for the 2021-22 school year is higher than the pre-pandemic year (2019), with all schools accredited with Performance status, while never compromising a whole-child approach to teaching and learning. Our educators are exceptional.
- Students have unique experiences that are provided by our thoughtful and dedicated educators (e.g., new Math resource K-8th grade, experiential field trips, environmental education—"classrooms without walls," approximately \$874,000 in course credit for students enrolled in Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment courses, CTE home build, Arts Education, Athletics, Activities, Connect14, Neurosequential Model in Education, MTSS, PLC, flooding model, and so much more.
- We started the school year with all licensed positions filled with high quality educators when many districts across the county, state, and nation had numerous vacancies.
- The development of a comprehensive master facility plan, and we received a near \$1 million BEST grant for safety and security enhancements and roof replacements at MSES and UPES. The development of a strong Safety and Security Team that has implemented systemic changes and continues to support restorative practices.
- The creation of strong and ethical human resources processes and practices (e.g., hiring practices, feedback and evaluation practices, DAC- recommended salary adjustments, increased number of professional development days, Late Start Wednesdays, four days for New Staff Orientation, etc.) to recruit and retain highly effective staff in all positions.
- An exceptional Leadership Team that consistently focuses on the staff, students, and families they/we get to serve each and every day. These are some of the most dedicated, ethical, future-thinking, collaborative, and hopeful professionals. We have highly qualified and effective instructional leaders in all of our schools who care deeply about children.

"I will never not say it...Manitou Springs School District is an amazing school district with so many wonderful people and unique opportunities in the most beautiful setting," said Dr. Domangue. "I feel especially fortunate to have gotten to know our students, staff, and families over the years."

MSSD14 Board of Education plans to release more information later this week with any updates it has by that point. Students, staff, families, and community members will participate in the transition process.

**ABOUT MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14**

Established in 1872, Manitou Springs School District 14 (MSSD14) serves approximately 1,350 students from Preschool to 12th Grade who reside in the communities of Manitou Springs, Cascade, Green Mountain Falls, Chipita Park, Crystal Park, and Cedar Heights. The district also serves about 48 percent "choice" students who come from other locations in El Paso and Teller Counties.

MSSD14 offers a "small town" educational environment driven by the core values of relationships, deep learning and opportunity. The district and its staff are dedicated to providing a safe and caring learning environment, encouraging all students to reach their potential and preparing responsible citizens.

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