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LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 71
Lowell/Fall Creek
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Kay Graham
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Lundy Elementary
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April 8, 2016

Lowell Families and Community,

I believe that the staff and leaders in Lowell School District are special professionals who do great work in educating our children. Our objective is to always recruit and develop outstanding instructional leaders to teach and lead our schools and our District.

This year is a very unique year. Those leaders of my generation are beginning to step aside for the next generation. This is called retirement! Many of us, who believe we view our work as a mission in life, face this phase of our life with both a sense of accomplishment and sadness. Our work, so often, is a major part of our lives. In 2018, new leadership will take over the day-to-day operations of our schools and District, with both Ms. Graham and I moving into a "form" of retirement. I want to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Kay Graham for her service to our District and to our students. Having served as Principal of both Lowell High School and Lundy Elementary, she faced many challenges, the least of which is dealing with this "old guy." I want to thank her for the difference she has made in the lives of our students and our staff.

Recently, the Board of Directors, with the recommendation from Ms. Graham and myself, approved a three year contract with Mr. Johnnie Lee Matthews III. The contract and expectations of the Board are designed to prepare Mr. Matthews for the challenges he will face as a school site leader and also as the Superintendent of Lowell School District. The Board took the action because, like Kay and I, they see that Mr. Matthews is a teacher's teacher and is a very gifted and capable young leader. He is dedicated to serving children and has demonstrated his level of commitment to implement the change process that has been directed by the Board of Directors of Lowell School District. With this plan in mind, we have appointed Mr. Matthews to serve as the Principal of Lundy Elementary School for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. The third year of his contract specifies that Mr. Matthews will be the Superintendent of Lowell School District and also the Principal of Lundy Elementary. In the spring of 2018, we will appoint the next principal of Lowell High School.

Additionally, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Ben Silebi who has been appointed as Director of Transportation, Custodial Services and Grounds and Mrs. Amber Hansen who has been appointed to serve as Director of Student Support Services and Special Education. Also, of note, for the next two years Ms. Graham will serve as Principal of Lowell High School and also Director of Curriculum and Instruction for our District.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Walt L. Hanline'.

Walt L. Hanline, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dedicated to educational achievement and the success of every student.