

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for joining us today. It is indeed an exciting day. As you just witnessed, the board approved an employment contract with Christine Fowler-Mack to become our next superintendent. Congratulations!

This action signifies a significant MOMENT for Akron Public Schools. This moment is marked with the sense of humility and steady focus toward needed progress.

This MOMENT enshrines in it the historical action that we witnessed today but will forever be memorialized in discussions and the history of this district.

THIS MOMENT marks the hiring of the FIRST female superintendent in Akron Public Schools history. In just a few months, Mrs. Fowler-Mack will become the first Black female to hold this post ... this is an important MOMENT for this district.

I want to take a few minutes to discuss this moment, why Mrs. Fowler-Mack and why NOW!

Christine Fowler-Mack is AKRON-born and raised! As a daughter of a former Akron Board of Education president, Fowler-Mack sought to forge her own path and decided to leave Akron. In doing so, she has achieved some remarkable accomplishments that will lend itself well for this MOMENT.

Mrs. Fowler-Mack is an educator, a mother and a former building leader, assistant superintendent and interim superintendent.

In this MOMENT, Mrs. Fowler-Mack's hiring elevates the board's commitment to enhancing the College & Career Academies of Akron as a cornerstone framework for our district, which sets us apart from the other large, eight urban districts in the state.

This moment requires us to have a FIERCE urgency of NOW. NOW requires us to be intentional and to have an unapologetic focus on equity.

This MOMENT requires us to focus on every fabric of our system and dismantle racism and unintended barriers to student success.

This MOMENT will require us to identify our weaknesses and call out the schools where we need to spend a little more time, energy and efforts to raise them from priority focus status.

THIS MOMENT requires us to have an experienced and accomplished COLLABORATOR, a leader who will bring us all together, while not being afraid to call a thing a thing. This moment calls for us to be INSPIRED and EMPOWERED by our new leader of our district.

The board has decided that this moment called for CHRISTINE FOWLER-MACK.

Dare I be bold and say we have high expectations for your leadership? Dare I say, we know you will MEET AND EXCEED THIS MOMENT and will bring your experience and expertise to help Akron become the number one public school district in the country?

DARE I BE BOLD and suggest that your leadership will help us position Akron Public Schools as the destination school district for all within the city of Akron, AND dare I BE BOLD to say we will rely on your expertise to help us become a national leader in providing virtual education providing more options and a higher quality of instruction?

DARE I BE BOLD to say this vision will put charter schools out of business in the city? DARE I BE BOLD to say this is possible with our first Black female superintendent? YES, I AM ... I am being BOLD because she is BOLD! She is ...

BELOVED

OPTIMISTIC

LIMITLESS

DETERMINED

Need I say more? This is a homecoming ... a celebration for what is to come. We are truly excited to have you join us as our next superintendent. Congratulations, again!

On behalf of all of the staff, students and all members of the Akron Public Schools Board of Education, welcome home, Mrs. Fowler-Mack! As we prepare for your homecoming, we would like to give you this opportunity to provide some remarks to share with us in this moment.