

Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Equity & Social Justice Leadership / Transformational / Resource Investment for Student/Staff Success

Professional Summary:

- Offering 18+ years of progressive experience in closing the achievement gap, developing and overseeing innovative academic programs, policies, and initiatives to promote student growth and achievement.
- Extensive experience creating and facilitating relationships through community and family engagement and partnership development.
- In Senior Education Roles, lead efforts in all districts to provide innovation and support for struggling schools, resulting in higher performance and achievement gap closure in all districts.
- More than a decade experience in resource management, leveraging multi-million-dollar budgets, community support for bonds, and meeting or reducing costs while reaching outcomes.
- Drove the efforts in Albany to remove schools from the NYSED “receivership” list by establishing higher performance expectations through a deep focus on systems of operations, family engagement, partnerships, data, and strategic supports.
- Established the “Return on Investment” protocol to evaluate outcomes for programs, demonstrate use of funds and determine impact for meeting student outcomes.

Areas of Expertise:

- Equity and Social Justice
- Close Achievement Gaps
- Collaborative Leadership
- Community Partnerships
- Innovative Strategy Development
- School Empowerment
- Curriculum Instruction & Assessment
- Family Engagement
- Resource Management
- Performance Management
- Policy Governance

Career Experience

Superintendent of Schools 09/2012 – 06/2016
City School District of Albany, New York

Successfully leveraged a \$225 million budget to lead powerful improvements in student achievement through family and community partnerships, innovative and rigorous professional learning opportunities for teachers and principals, modern and retro-fitted facilities, school support model allowing school staff to focus on teaching and learning, and equity-based allocation of resources. Developed vision and strategic directions based on feedback from aggressive outreach campaign and in partnership with city stakeholders such as Mayor, and Albany Promise Collective Impact that invested in programs such that students would benefit from extracurricular activities and college access programs.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Led the implementation of a bold equity in education agenda that clarified school leader expectations for all students; thus, increasing individual school performance ratings.

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- Developed and implemented process improvements to enhance the proficiency of school leaders' day-to-day operations to increase time spent on teaching and learning.
- Envisioned design of system to track specialized metrics and frequently monitor student achievement.
- Results from strategic plan yielded increases over four years beginning in 2012; overall graduation rates by 10%, increase in high school graduation for African American Students by 13%, achievement gap between White and Black high school students narrowed by 12%.
- One middle school was removed from the state "Receivership List" after successful implemented transformation plan developed and implemented by our District.

Deputy Superintendent 07/2010 – 09/2012

Paterson Public Schools, New Jersey

Managed the day-to-day operations on behalf of a state-appointed superintendent in a large urban district enrolling more than 30,000 students across more than 50 schools. I provided leadership over operations and accountability for the academic program designs, communication and reports to the Board of Education and the State Commissioner of Education in New Jersey. In addition, I provided leadership for the divisions within operations including human resources, required labor negotiations for change initiatives, safety, technology, buildings and grounds and finance.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Organized internal teams within the organization to effectively manage the changed required for the newly created Innovation Zone to support the district's lowest performing schools.
- Stewarded the superintendent vision by securing and maintaining partnerships with organizations such as Seton Hall University and Institute for Learning to provide additional support for students to assist them with college and career readiness.
- Built support of the district stakeholders to enhance our professional development offerings with equity principles and update teacher and leader evaluation systems such that a large percent was focused on student achievement.
- Results included increases in graduation rates by 17.5%; increases on Literacy proficiency by 6.9% overall, 13.2% Special Education, and 7.3 % ELL; and increases in mathematics proficiency by 15.7% overall, 9.2% SPED, and 18.8% ELL.

Chief Academic Officer

*07/2008 – 07/2010 Executive Director Educational Services, **Eden Prairie, MN**; 07/2006-07/2008*

*Chief Academic Officer, **Racine Unified Schools, WI**; 07/2003 – 07/2004 Executive Director Teaching and Learning, **Willow Run Community Schools, MI**;*

In these positions, I provided leadership in the teaching and learning departments to dramatically increase student success by ensuring access to a coherent curriculum aligned to standards, implemented with fidelity, and monitored for progress. I ensured the progress monitoring was used to differentiate instruction for students and to share student progress with other staff members working with the students and ultimately with families.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Led members of the teaching and learning team through a set of focus groups to develop a scorecard approach for progress monitoring the implementation of curriculum, including indicators for equity and access.
- Oversaw the evaluation of curriculum vetting and instructional frameworks that led to the adoptions of Understanding by Design.
- Led the implementation of a coherent curriculum aligned to state standards that resulted in closing the achievement gap for Black and White students by 16.4% in two years on grades 7 and 8 literacy.

Director of Achievement Initiatives 2003-2006

Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor Michigan

Provided executive-level leadership in support of the individual needs of 10 school districts within the county (48,000 students) to create, sustain and build equitable learning opportunities for every student.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Designed/facilitated the county-wide Leadership Academy focused on equity (6 districts, 50 participants)
- Provided leadership in county-wide high school reform initiatives (9 districts, 10 HS, 1 charter)
- Project manager/facilitator for Ann Arbor Public Schools – High School & Middle School Transformation

Associate Director Office of Regional School Improvement Services | 7/2002 – 7/2003

Ohio State Department of Education, Columbus OH

Provided statewide leadership and developed of a coaching system including training, resource allocation, research, project evaluation and deployment for 21 urban districts in the state, focused on closing the achievement gap. Additionally, provided statewide leadership in the development of a professional development system supporting local professional development committees (LPDC) and Entry-Year Programs in creating standards, implementing processes for accountability and ongoing training for 610 districts statewide.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Facilitated training, evaluation and processes for deployment for statewide coaching system for twenty-one urban districts.
- Identified and implemented strategies based on equity principles to close the “achievement gap”
- Team member, facilitator and coach for Malcolm Baldrige Award for districts state-wide
- Implemented statewide Professional Development System for teaching and principal using teaching and leadership frameworks that were research based.

Additional Experience

Assistant Professor Educational Leadership | The College of St. Rose, Albany NY | 07/2018 - Present: Provide leadership for next generation of school leaders by teaching educational leadership courses, aligning leadership program with new standards, observing and supervising of field-based internship experiences for leaders seeking certification for and promotion to leadership positions in education including school district business officials, central office leaders and building principals.

Founding Director | EquiVisible LLC, Albany New York | 01/2016 - present: Provide consultation for public and private schools to facilitate processes of engagement to help create equitable learning environment in response to building or district needs. Facilitated processes of engagement include affinity student groups, strategic planning for equity, student of color voice, recruitment processes for teachers of color, facilitating teachers and leaders at the building or district levels in creating innovations within culturally responsive pedagogy, behavior expectations and community engagement.

Assistant Professor Masters in Urban Secondary Teaching (MUST) | Cleveland State University | 07/1999 – 07/2000:
Liaison between Cleveland State and Cleveland Public Schools, taught Methods, Multicultural Education

Teacher | Racine Unified WI, Northview School District, MI and East Grand Rapids, MI Public Schools | 07/1981 – 06/1995: *Developed Choral Music Program, managed budget and conducted choirs for secondary students grades 6 – 12.*

Educational Background

Doctor of Philosophy, Curriculum and Instruction Kent State, Kent, OH

Master of Teaching (Secondary Choral) | Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Bachelor of Music Education | Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Certificates:

School District Leader (SDL) New Jersey