

New District Leadership Team Going Strong

The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year also marked the beginning of our new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent district leadership team. Suzanne Guntlow began her role as Superintendent in July 2020 and her former Assistant Superintendent role is now filled by Lucas Christensen, who joined Ihabod in September 2020.

Working Together

When asked how collaboration has been in just the first couple months of the school year, both administrators noted that while they are very busy it's been a genuine team effort with their work so far. In addition to the day-to-day business that requires their combined efforts, the two make sure to schedule meeting time each week to ensure they are on the same page with current district goals and initiatives to ensure strong district leadership through this unique and challenging year. Ms. Guntlow expressed her commitment to open and frequent communication to ensure Mr. Christensen continues to smoothly adapt to his new role at Ihabod.

Looking Ahead

When asked about what she and Mr. Christensen hope to accomplish going forward, Ms. Guntlow stated, "While the health and safety of everyone will continue to be a priority for this school year, we are thrilled to see staff and students back in school teaching and learning. With our safety protocols now firmly in place, we are focused on our students' academic growth and social and emotional well-being."

"In the last two months we have spent a lot of time reflecting on what is and isn't working for our students since reopening and this will continue to be a priority as we move forward. Since so many things about this year are so new, it was impossible to know how effective certain components of our learning plans would be until they were in practice. We are learning every day and are committed to ongoing reflection to ensure we are providing the best possible educational experience for all students given the current situation. Additionally, Mr. Christensen and I both place a great deal of importance on ensuring our faculty and staff are well supported during this time so in turn they can successfully support our students," said Ms. Guntlow

Mr. Christensen expressed a similar attitude, adding that though we would all prefer things to return to "normal", the district has arrived at a point where the community should know Ihabod is thriving again rather than just surviving the COVID-19 era. He noted that he and Ms. Guntlow will ensure that it continues thriving by consistently having meaningful conversations with all the district stakeholders about what's best for the students.