

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE CLARKE COUNTY BOE ANNOUNCES DR. XERNONA THOMAS AS SUPERINTENDENT

Athens, Georgia — The Clarke County Board of Education named Dr. Xernona Thomas as superintendent of the Clarke County School District. Since November 2019, Dr. Thomas has served as interim superintendent.

“Dr. Thomas had the board’s full support to guide the district through the transition and navigated a very challenging year,” states Dr. LaKeisha Gantt, board president. “As we moved forward, the board recognized her commitment and ability to lead the difficult task of ensuring an equitable education for all our students.”

A native Athenian and Clarke Central High graduate, Dr. Thomas received three degrees from the University of Georgia: a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, a Master of Social Work, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration and Policy. She has 28 years of experience serving students and communities in Clarke and Oconee counties as a school social worker, assistant principal, principal, chief of staff, and interim superintendent.

“Dr. Thomas is a passionate advocate for students and families, and we value her tireless work on their behalf,” added Dr. Gantt. “There is much work to be done, and we look forward to partnering together to increase student achievement and place all students on a path towards success.”

“Despite the challenges due to COVID, she makes difficult decisions every day to ensure student achievement remains the core of what we do,” states Dr. Tawana Smith Mattox, board vice president. “Her experience and status within this community place her in the best position to lead this organization. We are in good hands.”

“I am professionally and personally committed to the success of the Clarke County School District. I was born, raised, and educated in this community. I am passionate about ensuring that every student has the opportunity to be successful, and my responsibility is to provide stability and leadership as we work to provide improved outcomes for our students,” states Dr. Thomas.

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