



**For Immediate Release
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SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION FEATURES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

*SALLY SOUTHARD PASSES THE GAVEL
AFTER SERVING AS CHAIR SINCE 1999*

For the first time in nearly 15 years, the City of Salem School Board has a new Chairman.

At last night's annual reorganizational meeting, the current members of the school board unanimously appointed David Preston as the new chairman and Michael Chiglinsky as the board's new vice-chairman.

Sally Southard, who is retiring from the school board when her current term expires in December, has been the chair of the Salem School Board since 1999. She was first appointed to the board in 1996.

"We will celebrate 30 years as a school division this fall and Sally has been a school board member for more than half of that time," says Superintendent, Alan Seibert. "Sally is an amazing community servant who has been a consistently well-reasoned, intelligent, articulate leader who has always put the needs of students first because she has never had a personal agenda."

"When I came on board the renovation of G.W. Carver was just being completed, now the young kindergarten students are learning on laptops and iPads, so a lot has happened in that span of time," says Southard. "It's time for some new blood, some fresh ideas and members who still have kids in the school division."

Southard, who made the motion to elect Preston as her replacement, will assist in the transition of the new leadership team, as she serves out the final five months of her unparalleled tenure on the school board.

"It is an honor to serve both on the board and now as chairman," says Preston. "Sally set the bar high in leadership and professionalism and I am excited to see us continue her great work with our children in Salem."

Preston, who is the president and CEO of Country Cookin restaurants throughout of the state, has been a board member since May of 2008, when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Jim Chisom. He has been vice-chairman of the board since July 2011. He and his wife, Kim, have a son who attends Salem High School.

Chiglinsky is clinical psychologist, who is now serving his second term on the board. He and his wife, Joanne, are longtime Salem residents and all three of their children are graduates of the Salem School Division.

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