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**HARRY RUSSELL NAMED MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NEXT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PERSONNEL SUPPORT AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

MONROE COUNTY, Fla. – Sugarloaf School principal and veteran educator, Harry Russell has been chosen as Monroe County School District's Executive Director for Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership, according to Superintendent Mark Porter. Russell, will take over for retiring Executive Director of Human Resources, Dr. Ramon Dawkins beginning 2020-2021 school year. In addition to coordinating the human resource functions for the district, Russell's new position comes with an expansion of duties that include the development and enhancement of creative leadership opportunities in schools. Russell will serve as a member of the district's Executive Leadership where he will be tasked with high levels of accountability and decision-making responsibilities in the areas of organizational policies and compliance.

"The position of Executive Director for Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership is an expansion of the Executive Director of Human Resources role," Porter said. "Mr Russell will not only supervise the human resources department, but also provide critical support of our district mentor and volunteer programs, as well." Porter also noted that Russell will serve as a liaison with the larger community on school district matters, a role that is perfectly suited for the life-long keys resident.

Russell is a true product of the Monroe County school system. The Key West native received all of his K-12 education in Monroe County and is a member of the Key West High School class of 1989. Upon graduating from Florida State University in 1993, Russell taught social studies at Horace O'Bryant School for nine years. After earning a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Florida State University, he served as an Assistant Principal at Stanley Switlik, Elementary for two years before returning to HOB as an Assistant Principal for two more years. Russell then was Principal of Marathon High School three years and oversaw the final phase of the new campus construction for the 6th-12th grade school. For past last ten years, Russell has been the Principal of Sugarloaf School. The Pre-K through 8th grade school has maintained an "A" rating under Russell, who was honored as the 2019-2020 MCSD Principal of the Year.

Russell was recently chosen by incoming superintendent, Theresa Axford, as a Chairperson on the MCSD School Reopening Task Force. The task force, which is composed primarily of education and public health officials, along with parent and community representatives, is charged with unprecedented task of safely reopening schools during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Russell, who is well known for his strong leadership skills, is leading the team tasked with creating and implementing a communication and community coordination plan for the reopening of all MCSD school buildings.

"Harry has done great work helping get our schools get ready to reopen during this very challenging time," said Axford. "His dedication and leadership abilities will serve him well in his new role."

While Russell is very excited for his move to the downtown district offices, he is deeply appreciative of his 26 years spent in the school buildings.

"I have enjoyed working in every school during my career in Monroe County trying to impact the lives of all students," Russel stated. "I have had the great pleasure of working with very talented teachers and staff over the years who have an unwavering commitment to helping students reach their full potential. I will deeply miss the Sugarloaf School community whom I have served the last decade and very grateful to the many families I got to know."