



November 5, 2025

Dear Southeast Polk Community,

After much reflection, I am announcing my retirement at the conclusion of this school year. It has been the honor of my 35-year career in education to serve the Southeast Polk Community School District and to work alongside such dedicated staff, students, families, and community members.

Together, we have accomplished so much over the past decade. We have seen outstanding achievements by our students and staff. From record AP scores and national academic recognitions to multiple state championships in athletics and award-winning fine arts programs, our Rams have excelled in every arena. Programs such as Leader in Me, Best Buddies, and Project Lead the Way have provided students with leadership and learning opportunities that reach far beyond the classroom.

We also strengthened the district's financial position, lowering the tax rate by nearly 30% while maintaining a healthy solvency ratio and unspent balance. With the community's support, we passed major funding initiatives—including 2 bond referendums—that allowed us to modernize and expand facilities, enhance safety and security, and prepare for continued growth.

Southeast Polk has been recognized on both the state and national stage as an Iowa Top Workplace, a National Model PLC District, a Distinguished Project Lead the Way District, and is the home of three National Blue Ribbon Schools. These honors reflect the hard work and excellence of our educators, staff, and students, and I could not be more proud.

As I look ahead to this next chapter, I am filled with gratitude. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for your steadfast support of our schools. I will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition in leadership. Strong schools make strong communities, and I am confident Southeast Polk's best days are ahead.

With appreciation and pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dirk Halupnik".

Dirk Halupnik, Ed.D
Superintendent
Southeast Polk Community Schools

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Dr. Dirk Halupnik, Superintendent • 8031 NE University Ave. • Pleasant Hill, IA 50327 • Phone: 515-967-4294 • Fax: 515-967-4257

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