

Dear Mesa Parents and Families,

As many of you know, KD Umbarger is retiring at the end of this school year. Ms. Umbarger has been an incredible leader who has built strong relationships with families, students and teachers and has led Mesa in many efforts to engage students and to increase student achievement. On behalf of the district, Mesa staff, and everyone who knows her, I want to honor Ms. Umbarger's years of service and thank her for all she has done for Mesa students. She will be missed dearly and I know she will continue to support Mesa and the district even as she enjoys her retirement.

I also wanted to let you know that the district has hired a new principal for Mesa Elementary, Melissa Roberts. Ms. Roberts brings five years of experience as a principal in Central Consolidated District in New Mexico and is currently the principal of Kirtland Elementary outside of Shiprock.

As we considered this important decision, we were seeking a principal who had a record of improving student achievement, an ability to build strong relationships with parents, teachers, and students — someone who can continue the great work of Ms. Umbarger and the Mesa staff.

With that in mind, I wanted to share more information on Ms. Roberts with you. A couple of highlights from the school under her leadership:

- Ms. Roberts' current school moved from a D to a B on the state report card and maintained the B for the past two years
- Students at Ms. Roberts' current school increased their proficiency in reading on PARCC by 13% and by 11% in math from 2015 to 2017.
- Ms. Roberts' current school had a high degree of student and family engagement and students had an attendance rate of 95%.

I am also including Ms. Roberts' resume for your reference. Please join me in thanking Mrs. Umbarger for her incredible leadership at Mesa and in welcoming Ms. Roberts to the Mesa team to continue the great work that is already taking place. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you,

Lori Haukeness, Superintendent