

July 13, 2016

Dear City of Cape Coral Charter Community:

After an extensive and thoughtful search process, I am extremely happy to announce that Mr. Donnie Hopper has accepted my offer to become the new Principal at Oasis Elementary School beginning prior to the start of this upcoming school year. Mr. Hopper, who currently is the Principal at Gulf Middle School is excited to lead the Oasis Elementary School community and looks forward to working with students, staff, parents, and community members. Mr. Hopper is originally from the Cape Coral area attending school as a student in Lee County. Mr. Hopper earned his BA in Special Education from the University of South Florida. Mr. Hopper continued his studies at Nova Southeastern University where he earned a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. Prior to his work as an Administrator at Gulf Middle School, Mr. Hopper has also served as a Director at the district level, and as an administrator at Gulf Elementary, Cafferata Elementary, Trafalgar Middle, and as an Adjunct at Barry University.

Mr. Hopper was one of five candidates interviewed for the principal position, out of 19 original applicants. Mr. Hopper interviewed or met with Administrators, Governing Board Members, and other staff as part of the interview process. Those members of the City of Cape Coral Municipal Charter Schools who were part of the interview process scored Mr. Hopper very high in terms of his experience, demeanor, and his understanding that our system has different needs than a traditional public school system.

At his current school parents and staff were effusive about his leadership within his current position as Principal of Gulf Middle School. Consistent feedback was provided that described his innate ability to relate to stakeholders, his ability to build and sustain a strong school culture, and his problem solving skills.

They described his ability to set high expectations for learning and growth for both students and staff members. In addition, many commented on his caring nature, his high energy level, and his capacity to build a strong and positive culture within the schools he has been in charge of.

Charter School Administration 3519 Oasis Blvd. Cape Coral, FL 33914

Phone: (239) 424-6100 Fax: (239) 541-1039

Oasis High School 3519 Oasis Blvd. Cape Coral, FL 33914 Phone: (239) 541-1167 Fax: (239) 541-1590

Oasis Middle School 3507 Oasis Blvd. Cape Coral, FL 33914 Phone: (239) 945-1999 Fax: (239) 540-7677

Christa McAuliffe Elementary School 2817 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 Phone: (239) 283-4511 Fax: (239) 282-0376

Oasis Elementary School 3415 Oasis Blvd. Cape Coral, FL 33914 Phone: (239) 542-1577 Fax: (239) 549-7662 www.CapeCharterSchools.org











Charter School Administration 3519 Oasis Blvd. Cape Coral, FL 33914

Phone: (239) 424-6100 Fax: (239) 541-1039 It is clear that Mr. Hopper's values are consistent with the City of Cape Coral Municipal Charter School core values. Mr. Hopper is very excited to join the City of Cape Coral Municipal Charter community and believes he will learn a great deal from Oasis Elementary School teachers, students, parents, and administrators who demonstrate a commitment to their learning and to one another. I anticipate a "meet the principal" night at Oasis Elementary School to provide an opportunity for students, parents and staff to meet our new dynamic principal. An announcement will be made on date and time once it has been established.

Mr. Hopper shares my belief that a positive culture, open communication, and maintaining a family feel are the keys to a successful system. He is an outside the box thinker and I am very confident that this is a great selection. I look forward to seeing the positive impact on our system that I know Mr. Hopper will have.

Nelson Stephenson, Superintendent

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