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## **CEDAR HILL ISD HIRES CHERRON UKPAKA AS DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

(Cedar Hill, TX) – The Cedar Hill ISD Board of Trustees voted to approve Cherron Ukpaka as the District’s Director of Professional Development at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

“The hiring of Ms. Cherron Ukpaka is an excellent decision by our Board of Trustees,” Cedar Hill ISD Superintendent Dr. Gerald Hudson said. “Ms. Ukpaka has 19 years of experience in various roles in public education. She’s been able to enact positive change with each position throughout her career.”

Ukpaka arrives at Cedar Hill from Fort Worth ISD (the fifth largest district in Texas) where she has worked as the District Elementary Literacy Director since 2017. In that role, she established a district wide structured primary literacy initiative for all campuses and teachers in kindergarten, first grade and second grade.

She worked with teachers on curriculum standards and led FWISD’s curriculum rewrite and worked to ensure that teachers had the necessary instructional resources for their students.

“I am excited to join Cedar Hill ISD, a district that is forward thinking and focused on scholar excellence,” Ukpaka said. “Made for More Professional Development Center will provide a place to move the district toward a model-based professional development environment. We will develop our staff by modeling and practicing intended outcomes we want to see in the classrooms across CHISD.”

Prior to FWISD, Ukpaka worked as a Special Education Teacher for one year in Mansfield ISD (2016-17). Ukpaka’s first administrative experience took place north of the Red River with Stillwater Public Schools (2009-14, as an assistant principal and campus principal) and Oklahoma City Public Schools (2014-16, campus principal), respectively.

During her time in Oklahoma, her campuses increased state testing scores, built strong community relations and led construction efforts on a \$17 million building.

Ukpaka began her professional career in the Best Southwest as an English/Language Arts, Social Studies and Special Education Teacher in Duncanville ISD, from 2001-09.

“We are elated to welcome Ms. Ukpaka back to the Best Southwest Region,” CHISD Board President Cheryl Wesley said. “She brings a vast knowledge of educational best practices that will benefit our staff, which will result in a positive outcome for our scholars.”



Ukpaka grew up in Stillwater, Okla. and earned a Bachelor's Degree from Oklahoma State University in 2001 and Master's Degree in Education/Administration from the University of Phoenix, Dallas Campus, in 2007.

Ms. Ukpaka is involved in several professional educational organizations such as the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE), Coalition of Reading and English Supervisors of Texas (CREST) and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).