

Dr. William F. (Jim) Russell came to Burkburnett ISD in March 2016 and has served as Assistant, then Deputy Superintendent of Schools since that time.

Dr. Russell began his educational career teaching AP English and Creative Writing in Lindale ISD in 2001 and continued at Grand Saline ISD where he taught 6-12 grade students who were at high risk of not finishing high school. He also served in Navasota ISD as an assistant principal and principal at both the middle and secondary levels. While at Navasota, he was a central office Director responsible for Student Services, Federal Programs, Transportation, and Alternative Education.

While earning his undergraduate degree in Religious Education at Harding University, he preached at local churches. Earning his Master's Degree in Education Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2007 and his Doctorate in Education Administration from Texas A&M University College Station in 2013, he focused his research on the decision-making processes of effective teachers.

Reared in Alba Texas, he graduated from Alba-Golden High School in 1982. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Leah (also an education administrator) and they have three successful adult children with families of their own.

During his tenure as deputy superintendent, BISSD has gone through a major, collaborative strategic planning process and the district operates via alignment of the Board Goals, District Vision and Mission Statements, District Plan, and Campus Plans, down to the TTESS Goals of every teacher in every classroom. Beginning in 2016, the district purposefully diverted attention and instruction away from state-mandated assessments to instead, invigorate deep and meaningful learning in the classrooms. With this change of educational philosophies, the district has undertaken a renewed focus on teacher collaboration and further, began a strategic implementation of PBL on all campuses. Dr. Russell's objective is to transform the district into a learner centered environment focused on designing engaging experiences for students that result in profound learning.

Family and friends are very important to Dr. Russell. He is proud of his wife, Leah (High School Principal), their son Dr. Derek Russell, (a faculty member at UAB School of Medicine) and their two daughters – Krista Cone (MA, New York University), and Courtney Myers (Licensed Massage Therapist) and a collection of many great friends since childhood. He teaches in his church and occupies pulpits as an interim minister. He also enjoys cycling, motorcycling, traveling, cooking and dining, and most especially, working with educators and students.

Dr. Russell has a passion for public education and believes that quality teachers and a supportive community are critical components to the success of children and to the continued success of our democratic way of life.