

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### Office of Communications

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**Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.**  
Interim Executive Director of Communications



**John Cobb**  
Executive Principal  
Memminger Elementary School



**Cheryl "Cherie" Wash**  
Interim Principal  
Memminger Elementary School

## **Veteran CCSD educator John Cobb** **Named Executive Principal at** **Memminger Elementary**

### *Cherie Wash Appointed Interim Principal*

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce and welcome John Cobb as Executive Principal at Memminger Elementary School. In this new role, Cobb will oversee the work at Memminger while also assisting in special CCSD projects related to improving student outcomes. An experienced leader in CCSD, Cobb is joining the Memminger family after serving as the district's Executive Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement for the last several years. Memminger Principal Dottie Brown will retire on June 30, 2024, after a three-decade-long career as an educator.

Cherie Wash has also been appointed as Memminger's Interim Principal. Wash has served as Memminger's Assistant Principal since 2020 after previously serving as a district instructional specialist, lead teacher, and teacher evaluator in the Office of Teacher Effectiveness. Cobb's experience throughout the district, coupled with Wash's long-standing service at Memminger, will complement one another to benefit and engage students, parents, and the community.

With a heart for children and a passion for music, Cobb has served students and families in the Lowcountry as an educator for over 25 years. His career in school administration began at Colleton County's Forest Circle Middle School where he was the assistant principal followed by service at CCSD's Springfield Elementary School in the same capacity.

A dynamic leader, he was tapped to lead Colleton County's Northside Elementary School as principal in the early 2000s before returning to CCSD in 2004 to open the new 460-student Drayton Hall Elementary School. Cobb was instrumental in bolstering levels of student achievement and enrollment in his first five years at Drayton, setting the stage for the school to earn numerous awards and accolades over his nine-year tenure, including being named an Apple Distinguished School in 2013. Cobb was later selected as CCSD's Director of Early Childhood/Elementary Education in 2015 during which time he mentored and led school-based administrators and engaged with CCSD's Strategic Planning Team to develop data-driven strategies in support of teaching and learning in schools while in this role.

The following year, Cobb was promoted to Executive Director of Early Childhood/Elementary Education where he oversaw the district's 43 elementary schools and worked directly with principals and district leaders as a part of the Superintendent's Cabinet. With a foundational love for teaching and learning and a steadfast commitment to leading through service, Cobb volunteered in 2017 to lead Edmund A. Burns Elementary School as an Executive Director on Special Assignment. As an outstanding coach and mentor to the staff at Burns and all the Elementary Learning Community leaders, it was a natural fit for Cobb to become the district's Executive Director of School Improvement and Mentoring, where he could share his expert skill set with all principals across the district.

In addition to mentoring and advising principals, Cobb also liaised between the state department and schools needing improvement, monitored progress across the district's school improvement grants, and directed the district's Expanded Learning [Kaleidoscope] Department and Summer Enrichment Camp planning team. He then served as Executive Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement in 2022.

Wash brings experience to the role having served as a classroom kindergarten and literacy teacher at Midland Park Primary, a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Orange Grove, and as an educator at the Duke School for Children at Duke University and Seawell Elementary School. Wash's administrative experience in CCSD began as a Teacher Summer Residency Program Director followed by leadership roles at both Simmons-Pinckney Middle School and Burns Elementary before joining Memminger Elementary.

Wash has already made an impact within the Memminger community, forging strong relationships with staff, students, and parents alike. She understands the importance of collaboration and communication in fostering a positive and supportive learning environment.

"I have had the honor and privilege of working alongside Mr. Cobb and Mrs. Wash in service to our students, families, staff, and principals for the last two decades," said Dr. Jennifer Swearingen, Associate Superintendent of the Elementary Learning Community. "In addition to being driven, compassionate, and dedicated leaders, John and Cherie have an incredible love for children and an outstanding talent for growing both teaching and learning in any school environment they have been a part of. I know they will continue the amazing work of Ms. Brown and her staff at Memminger and I look forward to supporting them in their new roles."

Cobb earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Herbert Lehman University in New York. He also holds a master's degree in Elementary Education Administration and an Education Specialist degree in Education Leadership from The Citadel. Wash earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in French from Columbia College and a Master of Art in Teaching in Early Childhood from the College of Charleston. She has also completed coursework from The Citadel in Educational Leadership and holds certifications in Orton-Gillingham, LETRS, OGAP, Reading Recovery, and Restorative Practices.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.