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Superintendent Tom Schneider Elected President of NAFIS Board

Washington, DC – March 22, 2021 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Tom Schneider, Superintendent of Burr Ridge Community Consolidated School District 180 (Illinois), has been elected President of the NAFIS Board of Directors. The election took place at the 2021 NAFIS Spring Virtual Conference.

As President of the NAFIS Board, Schneider will serve as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid, the students they educate and the communities they serve. Schneider assumes the presidency after more than a decade on the NAFIS Board, during which time he has served in a variety of capacities, including as Secretary and Vice President.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It ensures students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

“Impact Aid is vital to ensuring that students are not disadvantaged due to the Federal government owning land in their communities,” Schneider said. “As school districts have adapted to teaching and learning under COVID-19, the importance of the flexible funding the program provides has only grown. I look forward to leading NAFIS as we continue efforts to strengthen and protect the program, and I am excited to make new connections with school districts across the Impact Aid community, working together to give all students access to the opportunities they need to reach their full potential.”

Schneider has served as Superintendent of Burr Ridge CCSD 180 for 14 years. He has a long history as an educator, having worked as a teacher and in school administration since 1989.

“This issue is very personal to me. For the students in Burr Ridge schools, Impact Aid is not just a number in an appropriations bill,” Schneider explained. “For our students, Impact Aid is an additional twenty-minutes a day or nearly two more weeks of instruction per year. Impact Aid means small class sizes and after school tutoring twice a week for academically struggling students who happen to be near the poverty line. These dollars help to provide approximately seven to eight teachers, a longer school day and a variety of other programs our students and community highly value.”

In addition to his work with NAFIS, Schneider is active in the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) and was recently appointed its Executive Director. He also served several years on the FLISA Board, including as President from 2014 to 2016.

“Tom’s deep understanding of the Impact Aid program, as well as his experience as an advocate educating federal policymakers on Impact Aid, positions him well for this leadership role,” said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. “Tom is committed to the entire Impact Aid program and the students and communities it serves, working hard over the years to develop a broad understanding of the different constituencies it represents. I look forward to working with him in his new role as President.”

Schneider’s term will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit www.nafisd.org.