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Lackland ISD Superintendent Dr. Burnie Roper Elected to NAFIS Board of Directors

Washington, DC – March 20, 2024 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Burnie Roper, Superintendent of Lackland Independent School District (Texas), has been elected to the NAFIS Board of Directors. The election took place at the 2024 NAFIS Spring Conference in Washington, DC.

As a member of the NAFIS Board, Roper assumes a key leadership role in championing the interests of school districts benefiting from Impact Aid nationwide. He will also help guide NAFIS public policy work and oversee association plans.

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 helps ensure students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

Roper has been involved with Impact Aid for 20 years, since joining Lackland ISD in 2004. He was named the district's superintendent in 2009 after serving five years as high school principal. The school district boundaries are coterminous with Lackland Air Force Base, and its students live on or are otherwise connected to the installation.

"For Lackland ISD, Impact Aid is a critical source of income, as it comprises almost 50% of the district's annual budget," said Roper. "Because I believe in the mission of the NAFIS organization and the importance of Impact Aid to all recipients, I am excited to be a part of the NAFIS Board of Directors to continue advocacy efforts and support all NAFIS subgroups in achieving the goals of the organization."

Roper has served as president of the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools (TAFIS) since 2014. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Military Impacted Schools Associations (MISA, a NAFIS subgroup).

"The NAFIS Board plays a critical role in ensuring federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to provide a high-quality education," said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. "Burnie's unique perspective as an administrator in a heavily impacted school district will provide crucial insight into the challenges faced by these districts and the importance of Impact Aid in meeting students' needs. I look forward to working with him to ensure continued NAFIS success."

In addition to experience in education, Roper brings a military perspective to the NAFIS Board. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1989 and retired from the U.S. Army Reserves after 35 years of service on January 1, 2020, at the rank of Colonel.

His term on the NAFIS Board will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight 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. Learn more at www.nafisdc.org.