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**MSB Appoints New School Leader**

**Baltimore, MD -** The Board of Directors of the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) has announced that W. Robert Hair will assume leadership of the school effective September 1, 2018.

Since 2016 Mr. Hair has been the Superintendent of Student Services at MSB. Prior to coming to MSB, he served as the Lower School Principal and later as the Deafblind Program Principal at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. Previously he was the Principal and music teacher at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Mr. Hair will replace Dr. Michael J. Bina, who has served as MSB’s President since 2008. Under Dr. Bina’s leadership the school has seen tremendous growth and improvements in both programming and facilities. In 2016, Bina received the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Migel Medal Award, the highest honor in the blindness field.

Marion Mullauer, Board of Directors Chair stated, “Dr. Bina has been a transformational leader for MSB. During his tenure, he led the campus master plan to fruition and the students now have buildings, cottages, and resources appropriate to their needs. In addition, educational and functional programs have been greatly enhanced to enable improved student independence and achievement. We thank Dr. Bina for his many contributions and wish him and his family much happiness in his future. We are confident that Mr. Hair, as the new Superintendent, will continue to build upon the terrific work of the past 10 years.”

Mr. Hair stated, “I am honored to have the privilege to serve Maryland’s students with visual impairments as MSB’s new Superintendent. My predecessor, Dr. Bina, built a legacy of high expectations for student academics and independence, beautiful new learning facilities and excellent itinerant services for students in local schools around the state.  I look forward to building on MSB’s rich history, to help our school continue to thrive well into the future.”

The title of the new leader was changed from President to Superintendent to align more closely with similar positions in the State of Maryland.

Founded in 1853, The Maryland School for the Blind is a private, statewide resource center providing outreach, educational and residential programs to children and youth from infancy to age 21 who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities.  Annually the school serves 56 percent of the 1,700 students identified in Maryland who are blind or visually impaired through its on-campus and outreach programs.

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