

Dear School Board members,

Tonight, I am incredibly honored to recognize an educator whose name has become synonymous with dedication and heart in our district: Kathi Kusch Marshall, Principal of Congdon Park Elementary School.

We are thrilled to announce that Kathi was recently named the Division Leadership Award recipient for the Northeast Division by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA).

This prestigious honor celebrates leaders who go above and beyond to support their colleagues and advance educational excellence across their entire region.

With an astounding 37 years in education, Kathi has spent nearly four decades building peaceful, inclusive, and high-achieving learning environments. For the last 16 years at Congdon Park, Kathi has served as "The Keeper of the

Kids," keeping student learning as her "North Star."

She has been a champion for holistic wellness through programs like *Safe Routes to School*, fostered creativity with drumming and art clubs, and built deep community trust through her monthly "Coffee with Kathi" meetings.

Additionally, her advocacy with the Parent Advisory Council for Special Education ensures equitable access and inclusion for every learner.

Please join me in congratulating Kathi Kusch Marshall on this well-deserved recognition and thanking her for her lifetime of service to the children of Duluth.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bonds Assistant Superintendent