
MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the School Board and Superintendent Holmberg
FROM: Dan Melde, Executive Director of Human Resources
DATE: July 21, 2025
RE: Recommendation for hire of Interim Principal at Centennial Elementary and Interim Assistant Principal at Centennial Middle School

Executive Director of Human Resources Dan Melde recommends the approval of internal hirings for Pete Knoebel as Interim Principal at Centennial Elementary and Amy Smalley as Interim Assistant Principal at Centennial Middle School. Both positions will be for the 2025-2026 school year and will start immediately.

Mr. Knoebel is the current assistant principal at Centennial Middle School. Mr. Knoebel began his educational career in 2000 and brings 15 years of leadership experience to his role as principal. He has been the assistant principal at Centennial Middle School since 2020 and has held multiple leadership positions at District 622 (North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District) including Dean of Students at Skyview Community Elementary School and at John Glenn Middle School. He also served as an instructional coach, math department chair, athletic director, team leader and teacher.

He holds a K-12 principal license from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, a Master of Education from Winona State University, and a Bachelor of Arts, Math Education, from Wartburg College.

Mrs. Smalley is a current teacher on special assignment with the district's teaching and learning department. Mrs. Smalley was a teacher at Nicollet Middle School, William Byrne STEM Elementary, and Sky Oaks Elementary and was the district-wide instructional coach at ISD 191 (Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District) from 2001-2024. She is also a National AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Center Staff Developer, providing learning opportunities for educators and was hired in 2024 as a teacher on special assignment in Centennial's Teaching and Learning Department where she was the District's Data and Assessment Coordinator, Technology Integration Specialist, and AVID District Director.

She has a K-12 principal certificate from Minnesota State Moorhead, a gifted education certificate from Hamline University, a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Elementary Education from the University of St. Thomas.