

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS 2015-2016 EXEMPLARY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



Morey Balzer, Belle Plaine Middle School Principal, was selected as an Exemplary Middle School Principal for the 2015-16 school year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators. Belle Plaine Middle School is located in south-central Kansas and serves 180 students in grades 5-8.

Morey earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Emporia State University in 1988. He went on to earn his Master of Science degree from Emporia State University in 2004.

In the fall of 1989, Morey began his career in education at Wellington High School teaching high school Industrial Technology. During this time he taught drafting, metals, woods and Applied Physics. In his last four years at Wellington, he coached golf, and the team went to state three of the four years. In 1997, he accepted a position at Belle Plaine High School in the Industrial Technology department. He served as the Vocational Director, coached high school baseball and middle school football. He also volunteered and served as director of the community Belle Plaine Recreational Organization.

Morey started his administration career in the fall of 2004 as the assistant principal at Belle Plaine Middle School. Beginning 2005, he was assistant principal of the high school along with duties as the high school athletic director.

In 2008, he became building leader of Belle Plaine Middle school and continues to work with his middle school staff and students to excel. The Belle Plaine Middle School received the Kansas Standard of Excellence Award” in both reading and math seven years in a row. In 2010, Morey assisted with the transition of the fifth grade class from the elementary school to make the middle school a 5th through 8th building. He has helped oversee the implementation of a 1:1 iPad student initiative in the middle school.

Morey is married to Lori who has been a nurse at Via Christi for the past 27 years. He has a son Jordan, who is serves in the US Marines; son Derek, who attends Kansas State University, daughter Danielle, who attends Kansas Newman University, and daughter Bethany, that attends Cowley County Community College.

Dr Rose Kane, USD 357 Superintendent, commented: “Mr. Balzer has a passion for helping students learn and a dedication to provide a positive teaching and learning environment for students and staff. In the community, he has a well-respected reputation for caring about kids, working well with parents, and supporting his teachers. These are all qualities in a middle school principal that every community and school district values.”

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Laurie Boyd, Arrowhead Middle School Principal, was selected as an Exemplary Middle School Principal for the 2015-2016 school year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators. Arrowhead Middle is located in Kansas City, Kansas, and serves 480 students in grades 6 – 8.

After graduating with a degree in Secondary Education, Language Arts, from the University of Kansas, Laurie taught high school English for three years in the Raytown School District. Between the years of 1983 and 1986 Laurie obtained a Master's Degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from K.U. and secured her building administrator's license.

She taught seventh-grade English at Northwest for three years, then was named building Literacy Leader and School Improvement Facilitator. Next, Laurie was named assistant principal and finally principal at Northwest. In 2006, she moved to Arrowhead Middle School and has served as principal there for nine years, so far.

For ten years, Laurie prepared second-career, alternatively certified professionals to take positions in high-needs schools as teaching fellows. Laurie was the fellows' summer boot camp director. The district is re-igniting the KCK Teaching Fellows program this year to fill vacancies in hard-to-staff positions. Laurie will direct the summer institute again.

During her career, Laurie received an Achievement in Education Award from the Northeast Optimists for Outstanding Contributions to Education and a district-level award for Five-Star Service as a school leader. She is the author of three books - *Beyond Classroom Management: Building Your School-Wide Discipline System*; *The Success in School Playbook*; and *The Grammar Graduate's Parts of Speech*. She blogs about discipline and motivation at www.laurieboyd.com.

Laurie is dedicated to making sure all adults become better and better at the art and science of teaching every school year. Nearly 90% of all students at Arrowhead pass all of their classes with a "C" or better. Arrowhead's multi-leveled student discipline system, which includes an on-site alternative school, enables the school to hold onto 99% of all students, losing fewer than a handful to long-term suspensions each year. More than 90% of all students show growth on the MAP test each year.

Kansas City USD 500 Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Lane commented: "Laurie Boyd understands the way to changing life outcomes for all students, is to commit continuous improvement for students and adults alike. She has a laser focus on improving instruction, supporting teachers and staff, that has resulted in a culture of high expectations for everyone associated with Arrowhead Middle School. "

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Jim Howard, Fort Scott Middle School Principal, was selected as an Exemplary Middle School Principal for the 2015-16 school year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators. Fort Scott Middle School is located in southeast Kansas and serves 470 students in grades 6-8.

After graduating from Bethany College, Jim taught 4th and 5th grade while coaching high school football, track and power-lifting at Wallace County Schools (Sharon Springs) and Kingman public schools from 2004-2008.

In the fall of 2008, Jim started his administrative career as the PREK-8 principal in Copland Kansas. During his administrative career, Jim has also worked for Doniphan West and Scott City before landing in Fort Scott in 2014. Jim moved to Fort Scott, where he serves as building principal for the past two school years. Jim has had the privilege of working with outstanding students and staff over his eight years as a building leader, and during that time, students and staff have achieved a variety of awards and recognition.

Fort Scott USD 234 Superintendent Bob Beckham provided the following comment: “After spending almost 30 years in education I have worked alongside many outstanding educators and I consider Jim to be one of the finest I have ever met. Additionally, he is a tremendous person and his convictions inspire him to be the type of role model our young people desperately need in society today.”

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Jerry Longabaugh, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School Principal, Goddard Public Schools was selected as an Exemplary Middle School Principal for the 2015-2016 school year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators.

Jerry has been an administrator in Goddard for 19 years. He began his career as the assistant principal of Goddard Middle School in 1997. Jerry became principal of Goddard Middle School in 1999. He oversaw the construction of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School. In August 2002, the district opened the second middle school. During the 2002-2003 school year, Jerry was principal of both Goddard Middle School and Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School. The transition of middle schools was made with the addition of one certified position – a librarian.

In 2003, Jerry was named the principal of Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School. Being an integral part of the design, construction and opening was quite an honor. In 2007, Jerry co-chaired the \$83.6 million bond campaign with parent, Pam McCue. This bond passed by the largest margin of any of the previous Goddard bond initiatives. Jerry worked with the architects, teachers, contractors and district personnel to design and build a new Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School at its current location. Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School is one of two middle schools in the Goddard Public Schools and serve approximately 455 students in grades 7-8.

Jerry grew up in Herington, Kansas and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from Kansas State University in 1984 and a Master's degree in educational administration from Wichita State University in 1995.

Jerry began his teaching career at Truesdell Junior High. He spent 2 years at Truesdell and then transferred to Wichita North High School where he spent 8 years teaching U.S. History and Government. Jerry also coached football, as well as girls' and boys' swimming. In 1995, Jerry transitioned to an assistant principal position at Derby High School.

As the principal of Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, students and staff have celebrated earning KAMSA's High Performing School status and KSDE Standard of Excellence honors in all categories almost every year. Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School was recognized for the Governor's Achievement Award in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. He attributes this success to the students and staff. The students and staff are truly committed to excellence in our school. Jerry notes that it is an honor to work in a district in which the parents and patron value the importance of a quality education.

Jerry is married to Michele and has two sons and a daughter. C.J., A.J. and Maggie. All three of his children are college graduates and two of them are educators. In his free time, Jerry likes to work around the house, golf and travel.

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Rick Moulin, Robert E. Clark Middle School, was selected as an Exemplary Middle School Principal for the 2015-2016 school year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators. Rick is in his third year as principal at Robert E. Clark Middle School, which serves 591 students in grades 6-8 and is located in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Rick is in his 20th year in education and has spent his entire career in the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville School District.

Rick began his career teaching English at Bonner Springs High School in 1996. After four years as an English teacher and Assistant baseball coach, he spent the next 10 years as a guidance counselor. He became an Assistant Principal at Bonner Springs High School in 2009 and spent three years in that role before becoming the Principal at Clark Middle School. In addition, he was the head baseball coach at Bonner Springs High School from 2002-2009. He earned an Excellence in Education Award in 1996.

Rick earned his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Saint Mary in 1996. He went on to earn his Master of Science degree in Guidance Counseling from Emporia State University in 2000. He earned his Licensure in School Administration from Emporia State University in 2009.

Rick is married to Kristin Moulin, a guidance counselor at Edwardsville Elementary. He has two sons, Brett (16) and Jackson (12) and two step-sons, Connor Byers (17) and Ethan Byers (13).

Superintendent Dan Brungardt, USD 204, made the following comments about Rick: "I have known Rick for several years and he is by far one of the best administrators that I have worked with. Rick is an educator who views his profession as a vocation, an opportunity. Rick has vision; he can see the potential in any situation. He does not hesitate to take on new tasks, has innovative suggestions to accomplish a goal and to solve problems during the process. Rick is a listener, a processor and a doer. He never backs away from a challenge."