



# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

## Fall 2017 Newsletter



From the desk of your Executive Director

As we head to the midpoint of the 2017-18 school year, KAMSA has taken on some new initiatives. During the spring of last year, we held our first EdChat at Valley Center Intermediate School. There were a handful of local administrators that attended, and many more that participated electronically. The event went off without a hitch and was very well received. Then during the summer, Jess Herbig (Challenger Intermediate School, Goddard) helped with the KASSP Beginning Principals workshop. This fall, we hosted a second EdChat in Wichita, again with a few local administrators in attendance, and many more once again participating electronically. Jess Herbig then facilitated an EdChat session at the KASSP Fall Conference in November. Jess Herbig and Greg Lehr (Valley Center Intermediate School) have been a tremendous help to in getting this EdChat process up and running. I thank them tremendously for pushing this old dog to learn new tricks.

In my district, Haysville USD 261, the district administrative team is now participating in our second book study of the school year. Our current book, *Lead Like a Pirate* (Burgess & Houf, 2017) is a fantastic read. It is an easy read, very relevant and pertinent to the challenges we face today, and is written by two former middle level administrators. If you have not read this book, I strongly suggest you take a look. "Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress; working hard for something we love is called passion." (Simon Sinek) "If there is not passion in your life, then have you really lived? Find your passion, whatever it may be. Become it, and let it become you and you will find great things happen for you to you, and because of you." (T. Alan Armstrong)

The real key to the entire book is to build those relationships and make connections with the children we get to serve. Notice, I state "get" to serve, not have to serve. If you are viewing it in any fashion other than "getting" to serve, you might want to take a serious look at the passion driving you to go to work every day. Joe Coles once said, "Is it your Passion, or your Job?" Being visible and accessible as a leader accelerates our ability to build trust. That main thing happening in our buildings isn't happening in the principal's office, it's happening live throughout the building, all day long. Get out and about, build those relationships and make connections with the children and adults we get to serve.

Our next BOD meeting will be held in January, Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> to be exact, and the location is yet to be determined. Once we return from the Christmas break, more information will be sent. From my school family, and my personal family, we wish each of you a happy holiday season.

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# 2017—2018 KAMSA Membership Application – If Needed

If you plan to join USA-KS (United School Administrators), select KAMSA as your “member organization.” The membership year is July 1 through June 30. If you decide to join KAMSA only, please fill out the membership form below and return it to KAMSA Executive Director Mike Maurer.

Note: First Year Principals—\$15. Regular Membership—\$50. Make Check Payable to: KAMSA. **Send to: Mike Maurer, KAMSA Executive Director, 14115 W. Onewood Ct., Wichita, KS. 67235**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_