

May 9, 2007

He will first serve as Kenneth Hall principal during the transition year
District announces Mike Callahan as principal of new K-3 elementary school

Less than a week after the Kenneth Hall Elementary principal announced his year-end retirement, District 16 moved quickly to name a replacement, as well as name a principal for the elementary school that will open in the fall of 2008.

Mike Callahan to become Kenneth Hall principal for one year, transition to new school

At the school board's May 8 meeting, it was announced that Woodcrest Elementary principal Mike Callahan will become principal at Kenneth Hall for the 2007-08 school year, and then transition to the position of principal of the new K-3 elementary school in Blaine which will open for the 2008-09 school year.

In doing so, Callahan will be principal during Kenneth Hall Elementary's last year as a school, and will also be able to play a significant role in the planning for the district's new elementary school. It will be a challenge, but also exciting and rewarding.



Mike Callahan

Kenneth Hall Elementary will no longer be a school after next year as part of the redevelopment and expansion of the Spring Lake Park High School complex.

In a letter to Woodcrest parents dated May 9, Callahan said: "Agreeing to accept this appointment was not easy; it is a long-term decision for me that involved much soul-searching because of the relationships built over the past two years with students, staff, and families at Woodcrest."

"I have been blessed," he added, "with a top-notch staff, a supportive group of parents, and 500 plus kids whose smiles each day define the importance of being an educator."



Van Jordahl

Callahan said that he came to Woodcrest with the philosophy that "nothing motivates a child more than when learning is valued by school, family and community working together. I found this to be true, and together we have made a difference for kids."

Van Jordahl, principal since 1999, retires

The position of Kenneth Hall Elementary principal was open after current principal Van Jordahl announced to his staff last week that "family comes first," and that he and his wife were leaving for Arizona to be with his father.

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Jordahl's father has been hospitalized with several medical issues and his father's wife was also expected to have surgery.

Jordahl told his Kenneth Hall parents that "family is of utmost importance to me and I have decided to at least temporarily move to Arizona to be of assistance in my family's time of need."

"For some time, he said, "I have also been considering an appropriate time for retirement. I have decided to do so sooner rather than later, so I am officially retiring at the end of this school year.

Woodcrest Elementary principal vacancy

The district announced a tentative timeline for filling the Woodcrest Elementary principal position for 2007-08:

- **Position posted**
May 9
- **Application deadline**
End of May.
- **Candidate selection**
 - Round One:* individual, group, and/or written interviews
 - *Round Two:* Candidates interview with Woodcrest staff and parents who select finalists.
 - *Round Three:* Finalists will be

interviewed by Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent, and Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, assistant superintendent

- The final candidate will be selected by June 15 and recommended to the school board no later than the June 26 board meeting