



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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DISTRICT 97 ANNOUNCES NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

OAK PARK, IL – During its meeting on April 9, 2019, the District 97 Board of Education approved the appointment of four new administrators:

- **Gina Herrmann** was hired as the new senior director of human resources. She will be replacing Laurie Campbell, who is retiring after 33 years in education. Herrmann is scheduled to start with the district on July 1, 2019, while Campbell plans to work through Aug. 29 to assist with the transition in leadership.
- **Michael Tanner** will serve as the interim assistant superintendent for finance and operations/CSBO on a per diem basis through June 30, 2019. He is replacing Paul Starck-King, who resigned in March to accept the position of assistant superintendent of finance and operations/CSBO for Proviso Township High Schools District 209. Tanner is scheduled to start with the district on April 11, 2019. Starck-King's final day with the district will be April 12, 2019.
- **Donna Middleton**, the district's current director of special education, will become the senior director of special education, effective July 1, 2019. She is replacing Eboney Lofton, who was appointed as the district's new chief academic and accountability officer.
- **Patrick King** was appointed to the position of director of finance, which was created to replace the district's fiscal services coordinator position and will be responsible for managing the district's various financial duties, functions and services (e.g., debt, cash management, payroll, accounts payable, etc.). King is scheduled to start with the district on June 1, 2019.

"I want to congratulate all of our new administrators, and welcome Gina, Michael and Patrick to District 97," said Superintendent Carol Kelley. "These four individuals have demonstrated incredible leadership and skill in their respective fields, and that experience and expertise will be critical as we work to advance our vision and foster the success of our students, staff and schools."

Biographies of each of the appointees are included below.

Gina Herrmann, Senior Director of Human Resources

Herrmann joins District 97 from Naperville Community School District 203, where she has served as the director of human resources for the past three years. She spent four years prior to that as the director of Career 203, the district's professional growth and compensation program, and held several different positions in Spring Valley School District 99 over a 17-year period (principal from 2009 to 2012, technology coordinator from 2006 to 2009 and teacher from 1995 to 2006). She also worked for two years as an instructional technology integration specialist for the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education.

Herrmann has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from North Central College, a master's degree in teaching and learning from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University, and certification in human resource management from the University of Minnesota. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership from DePaul University.

Michael Tanner, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations/CSBO

Tanner comes to District 97 from Fremont School District 79, where he was the associate superintendent for finance and operations for eight years. Prior to that, he was the assistant superintendent for finance and operations for Glencoe School District 35 (2007 to 2010), Prairie Grove School District 46 (2006 to 2007) and Mascoutah District 19 (2004 to 2006).

Tanner previously served nine years in the United States Air Force as a pilot, operations manager and flight training director. After completing active duty, he worked as a training director and pilot for Northwest/Delta Airlines for eight years before shifting his career to school finance.

Tanner has bachelor's and master's degrees in natural resources management from Southern Illinois University and Michigan State University, respectively. He earned an MBA in finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and an administrative certificate with a chief school business officer endorsement from Northern Illinois University.

Donna Middleton, Senior Director of Special Education

Donna Middleton has worked in District 97 for 17 years. Before her appointment to the senior director of special education position, she served as the district's director of special education for two years. She was also a special education coordinator from 2011 to 2016, and a special education teacher from 2001 to 2011. She spent one year working outside the district when she served as a special education specialist for School District U-46 for the 2016-17 school year.

In terms of her educational background, Middleton has a bachelor's degree in special education from Benedictine University and a master's degree in leadership and administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Patrick King, Director of Finance

Patrick King joins District 97 after serving two years as the director of financial reporting for the Cook County Comptroller's Office. Prior to that, he spent six years at the firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP (three years as a manager and three as a senior accountant). He was also an internal auditor for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for two years and a senior audit/tax associate for CBIZ MHM, LLC for four years.

King has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.