



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSD Announces Staffing Updates for 2024-25 School Year

Gig Harbor, WA – Superintendent Krestin Bahr is pleased to announce Michael Farmer has been selected as the Peninsula School District's new Chief of Schools. The Chief of Schools will supervise the administrators at all 17 of our district's schools. Bahr is also proud to announce the promotion of Kelsey Parke as our district's new Director of Career and Technical Education. Farmer and Parke will both begin in their positions on July 1, 2024.

Farmer was selected from a strong pool of applicants after an extensive interview process with many PSD stakeholders, including students, community members, principals, district administrators, union leaders and the superintendent. Farmer has been in education for almost 30 years and is currently the Superintendent of Dieringer School District in Lake Tapps, WA. Before that, he was a teacher, a principal, the Director of Instructional Technology in Tacoma Public Schools and then the Executive Director of Innovation and Learning at Eatonville School District.

"Michael has years of demonstrated innovation working with principals in a central office, and he has been very successful implementing academic excellence and building leadership," Bahr said. "We are excited about the knowledge and experience he will bring to this role."

Farmer holds a Master's in Educational Administration from Western Washington University and a Bachelor's in Education from Eastern Washington University. With over a decade of senior administrative experience, Farmer will use his expertise in educational leadership to meet the evolving needs of students, educators, and the community.

Parke's appointment to the Director of CTE comes after a comprehensive search that highlighted her exceptional leadership, commitment to educational excellence, and passion for innovative learning solutions. Parke brings to the role a wealth of experience in educational leadership, having served as the principal of Kopachuck Middle School and previous CTE Director for University Place School District. Under Parke's guidance, Kopachuck has seen remarkable achievements in student engagement, academic performance, and community involvement.

“Our team is thrilled to leverage Kelsey’s extensive CTE experience and training, in a district she has already made a huge impact on and is admired in,” Bahr said. “We look forward to her leadership in this key role.”

As Director of CTE, Parke will oversee the development and implementation of career and technical education programs across the district. Her role will be pivotal in preparing students for successful careers and global citizenship, aligning CTE programs with industry standards and workforce needs. Parke's leadership will be instrumental in expanding opportunities for all students, ensuring they have access to high-quality, relevant, and engaging educational pathways.

This appointment reflects the district's commitment to excellence and innovation in education. We extend our gratitude to the Kopachuck community for their support during this transition.

Parke holds a CTE Director Certification from City University Seattle, as well as Masters in Teaching and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Puget Sound. We are excited about the future of the district's CTE programs under Parke's direction and look forward to the continued success and growth of our students under her leadership.

High School Athletics Department Update

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, there will be adjustments to both the athletic director and athletic secretary positions at Gig Harbor High School and Peninsula High School, to create an Athletics and Activities Administrative role at the district level. The district is restoring the athletic director roles to the positions they held before the pandemic, which will result in the two positions changing to be 0.6 FTE athletic director and 0.4 FTE teacher. In addition, one athletic secretary will transition to the district office and the other athletic secretary will split their time between PHS and GHHS.

These changes will allow the district to create a centralized athletics position, to better serve both high schools equitably. The Athletics and Activities Administrator will oversee all athletics and activities, including aquatics and community use fields. This position will also be responsible for serving as the district's Title IX coordinator.

These staffing changes are rooted in the district's commitment to enhancing learning environments, ensuring they are fully aligned with our mission to provide every student with innovative and rigorous learning opportunities. We are dedicated to academic excellence and supporting current needs and future aspirations as we fulfill our vision of inspiring and empowering every child, every day.

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