

New principal has strong ties to Bend Senior High School

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. -- Bend Senior High School will have a new principal next year, and the face will be a familiar one to the more than 1,500 students currently attending the school.

H.D. Weddell, current Asst. Principal at Bend Senior High, will take over as Principal on July 1. After an extensive interview process, Bend Senior High's very own H.D. Weddell was selected from a strong candidate pool to become the school's next principal.

"We are fortunate to have such an inspirational, proven leader with close connections already established with staff, students and families at Bend Senior High," said Bend-La Pine Schools Chief Academic Officer for High School Programs Vicki Van Buren. "H.D. is extremely invested in BSH and its continued success. He has the know-how to keep the school moving forward."

Weddell brings more than 30 years of educational leadership to the principal position at Bend Senior High. He says that he is excited about the direction that current principal Mark Neffendorf has set and looks forward to building upon the positive momentum.

"This is an incredible school with special staff," Weddell said. "We have done a lot of good work here and we are just warming up -- more amazing opportunities for students and staff are on the horizon."

Weddell notes that he is taking on the principal position in tougher financial times than he has ever seen in his career.

"Although we are in for challenging economic times, I am convinced that BSH will do our finest work in the years to come," he said. "As the saying goes, 'In times of adversity some break and others break records' -- we will be on top when we are through this because our staff puts students first and foremost."

Superintendent Ron Wilkinson says that Weddell's dynamic leadership and communication skills will play a key role in continuing the tradition of excellence at Bend Senior High School.

"I am confident that Mr. Weddell will be very effective in continuing the quality culture at Bend Senior High and will continue efforts to meet the needs of every student at all levels," he said. "He will provide a smooth transition as we move forward with the formal site review process next Fall as we implement the

International Baccalaureate Program at BSH (in 2010)."

Wilkinson says that he was impressed with the quality of all three of the principal finalists and believes that each would have been a positive addition to the district administrative team.

Weddel is currently one of two assistant principals at Bend Senior High School. He will take over the reins from current principal Mark Neffendorf on July 1, 2009.

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