

New school principals selected for Cascade Middle, La Pine Elementary, and La Pine High

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

New Principals Bring Dynamic Leadership Skills to Bend-La Pine Schools Three more Bend-La Pine Schools will have new leaders in the principal seat this fall. After a comprehensive, nationwide search and demanding interview process, Superintendent Doug Nelson is pleased to announce the names of the schools' newest principals. "We are fortunate to have been able to both promote from within, as well as bring in a leader from outside the state for these positions," says Nelson. The new principals are: Michael Hecker, Cascade Middle; Tammy Doty, La Pine Elementary and Jay Mathisen, La Pine High. Hecker, Cascade Middle School's new principal, is currently Principal of Clague Middle School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has nine years experience as a school administrator at the middle and high school levels in Michigan's Huron Valley and Ann Arbor Public Schools, and has worked as an educator since 1989. "A typical day finds me performing instructional walkthroughs, offering praise to teachers, building relationships with students, and listening and responding to staff about their questions and concerns," says Hecker. "The Bend-La Pine Schools' progressiveness and commitment to academic excellence is very appealing to me and I am very much looking forward to working with the staff and students at Cascade," he adds. Hecker holds a Bachelor degree in Finance and Marketing from the University of Denver, and a Masters degree in Secondary Education from American University in Washington, DC. Doty, currently a fourth grade teacher at La Pine Elementary School, will take over as principal. Doty has been working at La Pine Elementary School for the last 13 years and has a strong connection to the school and community. "As a building leader, I have had the opportunity to impact the students beyond my classroom by being a mentor for student teachers and as a facilitator for staff development opportunities," she says. "I am excited to be taking the next step and becoming our next school principal, it is a humbling honor and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence here at La Pine Elementary." Doty holds Bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Interdisciplinary Studies from Western Oregon State College and a Masters in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Oregon. Mathisen will move up to high school. He is currently assistant principal of La Pine Middle School, and will take the helm as principal of La Pine High School. Mathisen has 4 years of administrative experience at the middle school and high school levels in Bend-La Pine Schools and served as principal at McKenzie High and Middle schools in Finn Rock, Oregon. He has been an educator since 1995. "I thrive on building and developing relationships with staff and students," he says. "I will work diligently to be a principal who supports staff, fosters team spirit, and ensures that both staff and students have the tools to meet their every goal." Mathisen holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Western Baptist College and a Masters Degree in Secondary Education from Western Oregon University. The selection of Hecker, Doty and Mathisen will be presented to the Bend-La Pine Schools School Board at their April 4 meeting. The Elk Meadow Elementary School principal position is expected to be finalized in the weeks to come. Recruitment for the positions vacated by Katie Legace at Pilot Butte Middle School and by Jay Mathisen at La Pine Middle School is underway. The new principals will begin July 1, 2007.