



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paul Kelly Named President of the Illinois Principals Association

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Principals Association is pleased to announce that Paul Kelly, principal of Elk Grove High School, IL, will serve as President for the 2023-2024 school term.

"It is an unbelievable honor to serve as the President of IPA, and I will strive to make a positive difference for school leaders across the state," said Kelly. "As a former Chicago Public Schools student who ultimately graduated from Norris City-Omaha-Enfield High School in Southeastern Illinois, I was given the gift of caring professionals whose shared priorities were my wellness and my success. Illinois is filled with educators who make it their mission to create opportunities for the next generation, and I am ecstatic to serve in a role that connects me to school leaders from every city, town, and village in our diverse state."

Dr. Jason Leahy, Executive Director for the Illinois Principals Association, adds, "Paul Kelly is a proven school leader who has been recognized nationally for his efforts. As the IPA continues to develop and deliver innovative support and resources for our state's school leaders, Paul will provide the vision, guidance and encouragement needed to keep moving the Association forward."

Mr. Kelly has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association since 2013 and a member of the IPA Board of Directors; most recently serving as State Director for the North Cook Region and North Cook Region Director. Kelly has also participated on the NASSP National Principals Conference Planning Committee, served as an advisory board member for the Midwest Principals Center, and co-presented the webinar *From Words to Action: Your Response to Racism in Schools* for the IPA.

Kelly has been recognized for his leadership by the Benedictine University Alumni Association, receiving the Rising Star Award (2021), Golden Apple Leader of Distinction, and as a finalist for the Stanley Golder Leadership Award (2020). Kelly was named 2018 High School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association, which prompted his nomination as 2019 National Principal of the Year from the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Kelly was among three finalists for this national recognition.

Paul Kelly began his career in education in 1998 as a Social Science teacher at Carl Sandburg High School (Orland Park). He continued teaching Social Science at Hinsdale South High School (Darien) and later served as Division Head for Social Studies/World Languages at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights. Kelly has served as principal of Elk Grove High School in Elk

Grove, IL since 2013. Kelly has also served as a teacher leadership coach at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Mr. Kelly received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education-Social Science, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Benedictine University, a Master of Education in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Paul Kelly resides in Mount Prospect, Illinois with his wife, Megan, who is the principal of Rolling Meadows High School. He is the proud dad of two sons Conor and Liam, both students at the University of Illinois Grainger College of Engineering, and daughter Avery, a high school junior and talented artist. He is also the proud stepdad of Charlotte, Henry, and Vivienne.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,100 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

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