



287 New School Board Chair Dean Henke named to All State School Board

Dean has a genuine compassion for staff and students and is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students; he has served the Intermediate District 287 school board for two terms and Osseo Area Schools for 13 years.

Plymouth, MN - Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) has named Dean Henke, Osseo School Board Chair and Chair of the Intermediate District 287 school board, to the MSBA 2017 All State School Board, the organization's most prestigious honor. Dean was elected Chair of the 287 school board at the January 26 school board meeting.

As a member of the Intermediate District 287 school board, Dean has shown a genuine interest in learning and compassion for staff, students, and families. On the Osseo Area School's website, Superintendent Kate Maguire noted Dean's strong leadership as an asset to the Osseo school district.

At Intermediate District 287, we have benefitted particularly from Dean's expertise in finance. His service from 2005-2008 on the Board Finance Committee and from 2005-2007 on the Board Joint Facilities/Finance Committee significantly contributed to our ability to assure adequate and cost-effective facilities for our growing population of high needs students. Service on these two committees required a generous time commitment and a need to be creative, persistent, and persuasive. Dean liberally offered his time and his talents to help us design a plan that took into account the interests of all parties and resulted in high quality facilities that are now the model for the region.

Dean's compassion and dedication to making education accessible to all students regardless of circumstance is just one of the reasons for Dean's selection to the All State School Board. MSBA's information about the award indicates that this "recognizes an individual's outstanding contributions to students and public education." Criteria for the award includes MSBA training, strong leadership; excellence in boardsmanship; communication skills; visionary thinking; demonstration of concern for students, staff and taxpayers; and support for the nomination from stakeholders.

Henke and the other 2017 All State School Board winners were honored at Minnesota School Boards Association's annual Leadership Conference on Jan. 12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

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MSBA is a private, nonprofit organization that serves all of Minnesota's public schools with technical assistance, advocacy, research, board training and cost-saving programs. Intermediate District 287 is a consortium of 12 west metro school districts offering more than 120 programs and services specially designed to help meet the unique learning needs of member district students.

ISD 279 is the fifth-largest school district in the state, serving all or parts of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Osseo, Plymouth, and Rogers. The district serves approximately 20,000 students, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, in 17 elementary schools (PreK-5), four middle schools (6-8), three senior highs (9-12), an area learning center, two early childhood centers, two special program sites, and an adult education/enrollment center.