



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Donald Kennedy joins Seattle Public Schools as Chief Financial and Operations Officer

Seattle Public Schools is pleased to welcome Don Kennedy as the district's new Chief Financial and Operations Officer. In this newly configured position, Kennedy assumes the responsibilities of former Chief Operations Officer Mark Green and former Chief Financial Officer Art Jarvis. In this role, he has leadership responsibility for the school district's business functions of Capital Projects Program, Enrollment, Facility Services, Finance, Information Technology, Planning, Procurement, and School Support Services, among other district operations. Kennedy officially assumes his responsibilities on November 1.

Kennedy has more than seventeen years of leadership experience in the areas of governmental and corporate finance and operations management. Most recently he was the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for the Charleston County School District in South Carolina. In Charleston, he was credited with improving the school district's financial condition, modernizing business systems and processes, and restructuring non-academic organizations into a cohesive unit that supported the academic goals of the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees. Kennedy had significant impact on restoring public confidence in the district's financial operations and in getting the district's senior leaders to work more collaboratively across academic and non-academic lines. He was also a 2005-2007 participant in the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP) with the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Business School.

Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson said, "Don's proven record of leadership and team building will be a great asset to Seattle Public Schools. His experience in both the public and private sector in the areas of performance management, finances, and operations made him the clear choice for this critical role. Don joins our team at an excellent time as we align the district's finances and operations to support academic success for all students."

While in college, Kennedy was in Air Force ROTC and, upon graduation, served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force where he was a crew member on the AWACS aircraft system. After completing his Air Force service, he joined the Boeing Company in Saudi Arabia as a training analyst and instructor, where he taught training classes on the AWACS system to members of the Saudi Arabia Air Force.

Upon returning to the U.S., Kennedy worked for Boeing in various financial management positions in Seattle, Washington; Huntsville, Alabama; and McLean, Virginia. He also served with Science Applications International Corporation in Reston, Virginia. In these positions he developed an exceptional track record in business process improvements based on his philosophy of total enterprise engagement in change management. Kennedy is known for his ability to create teams of people of various personalities and skills and inspire them to work together to meet organizational goals.

Kennedy has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Newberry College in Newberry, SC and holds a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certificate from the state of Alabama.

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