



**July 29, 2024**

## **Welcoming Dr. Jerry McDowell as MEMSPA's New Executive Director**

Dear MEMSPA Members and Supporters,

We are thrilled to announce a pivotal moment in the history of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA). Beginning January 1, 2025, Dr. Jerry McDowell will step into the role of Executive Director, ushering in a new era of leadership and dedication to our community of educators.



Dr. McDowell comes to MEMSPA with a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to educational excellence. With a background deeply rooted in advocating for principals and supporting school communities, he is poised to lead MEMSPA forward with innovation and compassion.

Reflecting on this momentous occasion, MEMSPA President and head of the search committee, Dr. David Simpson, shared his enthusiasm: *"We are excited to have Dr. McDowell as our next Executive Director of MEMSPA. He is passionate about supporting elementary and middle-level principals and tirelessly advocates for schools. I thank our members and the Board of Directors for their voices during this important process. Additionally, I would like to thank our Executive Search team for their tireless efforts over the past six months in helping MEMSPA find our next leader."*

Dr. McDowell's appointment follows a rigorous selection process led by the MEMSPA Executive Search team, culminating in the identification of a leader who exemplifies the values and vision of our association. His dedication to fostering collaboration among educators and empowering principals will undoubtedly strengthen MEMSPA's mission to advance learning and leadership in Michigan schools. He has served as Superintendent, principal, and has varied teaching experiences at all levels in education.

As Jerry prepares to take the helm, he shared some words with MEMSPA members:

*“There are few, if any, roles in education that require the skill set of the elementary and middle level principal. I am honored to be able to stand side by side with those who do this work every day.*

*Strengthening relationships with school leaders, legislators, advocacy groups, and support services throughout the state and region will help us to tell the positive, uplifting story in our schools.*

*Moving ideas from concept to action that make a difference for our members, their school districts, and the local communities they serve - will improve the learning trajectory of our students. I look forward to celebrating the strengths and advocating for the needs of the current and aspiring principals in the State of Michigan.”*

Jerry has been married to Sandi for 22 years. They live in Whitehall, Michigan with their three children - Jack (a sophomore at the University of Michigan), Grace (a senior at Whitehall High School), and Jones (a sophomore at Whitehall). They have a yellow lab, Bumper, who likes to do all kinds of fun stuff like hiking and going on boat rides.

As we prepare to embark on this new chapter, we extend our warmest welcome to Dr. Jerry McDowell. Together, let us continue to champion the transformative power of education and ensure every student receives the support they need to thrive.

**Sincerely,**

**Your MEMSPA Team**

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MEMSPA | (517) 694-8955 | [memspa.org](http://memspa.org)

