



MEDIA RELEASE
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ROCORI Principal, Dr. Eric Skanson,
Elected MESPA President-Elect**



Dr. Eric Skanson
(jpeg of photo attached to this media release)

(St. Paul, MN – April 10, 2017) – Dr. Eric Skanson, principal of Cold Spring Elementary School in the ROCORI school district, was elected by his peers to serve as President-Elect of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) in a statewide election. He will assume this responsibility on July 1, 2017, and serve a two-year term as President-Elect, followed by a two-year term as MESPA President, and a one-year term as Past-President.

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association strives to be the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle-level principals and a strong leading voice for public education. MESPA is committed to ensuring a high quality of education for all children through strengthening and enhancing the principal’s role as educational leader in our schools. MESPA currently services over 1,000 principals and has represented Minnesota’s principals since 1950. MESPA is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 20,000 members nationwide.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Eric Skanson has been elected as the President-elect of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association,” said Jon Millerhagen, MESPA

Executive Director. “Principal Skanson has led MESPA's Principal PREK-3 Design Team in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education Early Learning staff. Their leadership has yielded nationally recognized professional development for PreK-3 Principal Leadership in over 150 of 330 public school districts in Minnesota. Eric is an enthusiastic, strategic leader that infuses energy and high standards in all his work.”

In his candidate statement, Skanson wrote, “I have a palpable love of MESPA. I believe in the leadership, mission and vision and see my talents and strengths as a great fit to lead MESPA through upcoming years. I have an understanding of the role and a desire to serve. MESPA’s job is to be successful and it is all our jobs to help it be successful. This servitude and gift of time and talent is my way of giving back to an organization that has filled me with inspiration, hope, and skills to be successful at my job.”

Skanson isn’t joking about his love for MESPA. He addressed the attendees of MESPA’s annual Institute with a “love letter” to MESPA: “Dear MESPA, I remember the first time I saw you as a young principal. I was taken back by your generosity, your humor, your professionalism, your acceptance of diversity, your forward thinking. You were exactly the kind of organization my mom would be proud to have her son date.”

He continued in his speech, “You let me be a division president, legislative committee member, lead learner on pre-k, and you let me host winter Institute. Then I started to realize things were getting serious. You let me be your secretary-treasurer...MESPA, let me be your voice. Let me be your advocate. Let me bring you home to meet my family. Let me give back to you fully what you have given to me: a passion and palpable love of the principalship.” MESPA members said “yes” to Skanson’s proposal in the statewide election.

Skanson became an elementary principal in 2007 at Renville County West Elementary in Sacred Heart, MN. He has been the principal of Cold Spring Elementary in Cold Spring, MN since 2008. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Valley City State University at NDSU, a Master of Arts in Education from Hamline University, a Certificate of K-12 Administrative Licensure from the University of Minnesota, and a Doctorate of Education in

Organizational Leadership Policy Development from the University of Minnesota. He is currently serving MESPA as secretary-treasurer on MESPA's executive board.

Skanson joins the elected statewide MESPA executive board effective July 1, 2017:

Nancy Antoine, President (principal, Northfield);

Eric Skanson, President-Elect (principal, ROCORI);

Jen Olson, Secretary-Treasurer (principal, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted);

Tim Bell, MESPA NAESP State Representative (principal, Prior Lake-Savage)

Mark French, Past President (principal, Hopkins)

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MESPA's Purpose:

Improve education for Minnesota students through collaboration and advocacy; **Unite** current, past, and future licensed elementary and middle-level principals; **Encourage** and support a cooperative relationship between MESPA and other state/national organizations; **Advocate** for the professional, ethical, economic, and social welfare of its members.