

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Principal, Jen Olson,  
Re-elected MESPA Secretary-Treasurer**

*Jen Olson*  
(jpeg of photo attached to this media release)

*(Roseville, MN – March 27, 2019)* – Jen Olson, principal of Humphrey and Winsted Elementary in the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted (HLWW) School District, was re-elected by her peers to continue serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA). The MESPA Secretary/Treasurer supports the MESPA President and the association as a whole, reviews and reports on MESPA finances to the Board, takes minutes at MESPA Board meetings, serves as a resource for MESPA members, and more. Olson will begin a second two-year term on July 1, 2019.

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 serves more than 1,000 principals and has represented Minnesota's

principals since 1950. MESPA is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and its 20,000 members nationwide.

“We are thrilled that Jen Olson has been re-elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association,” said Jon Millerhagen, MESPA Executive Director. “Principal Olson currently leads MESPA's Educational Advisory Committee, which helps guide MESPA’s professional development. Principal Olson also chairs MESPA’s Investment Policy Committee, and has done a great job as MESPA’s Secretary/Treasurer for the past two years. Jen is a meticulous, passionate leader who always has the best interests of her peers at heart in everything that she does. We look forward to seeing where Jen will lead MESPA.”

In her campaign speech at MESPA’s annual conference, Olson said, “It’s been a privilege to be involved in MESPA for the last 14 years. My priorities and efforts are focused in Minnesota and leading the way for our students and schools. I don’t feel like I’m done yet. I want to continue to advocate for the very needs of the amazing members of MESPA, the amazing children of Minnesota, I’d also like to take care and be clear in the communication to promote the work of MESPA, as well as work hard to complete whatever I’m tasked with.”

In her candidate statement, Olson wrote, “I will continue to work tirelessly for MESPA. I am not afraid of a challenge, and wish to be a supportive “go-to” for my peers. MESPA has been invaluable—peer connections, resources and professional growth. Being selected Secretary/Treasurer gives me an opportunity to give back and support others in the way that MESPA has supported me.”

Olson has served MESPA as a Division President (2010-2012) and is currently serving as the Educational Advisory Chair, a role which she has held since 2012. She has been an elementary principal for 14 years and has served as the principal of Humphrey and Winsted Elementary Schools in Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Public Schools since 2005. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, coaching, and parent educator licensure from

the University of Minnesota Duluth; a Master of Arts in Learning Technologies from the University of St. Thomas; and an Administrative Licensure (K-12) from St. Mary's University.

Olson's new term on the elected statewide MESPA Executive Committee is effective July 1, 2019. This committee also includes:

Eric Skanson, President (ROCORI);

Jason Luksik, President-Elect (Bemidji);

Dawn Brown, MESPA NAESP State Representative (New Ulm);

Nancy Antoine, Past President (Northfield)

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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.