

La Porte Independent School District

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DISTRICT NAMES TWO NEW PRINCIPALS, EXEC. DIR. OF TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

La Porte ISD assistant principals Jesse Loudermilk and Blake Minor will be the next principals of The Academy of Viola DeWalt High School and La Porte Jr. High School, respectively.

Julie Abram, Dickinson ISD's director of advanced academic programs, meanwhile, has been named the district's executive director of teaching and professional learning, a new position whose purpose is providing leadership and supervision in curriculum and instructional development, revision, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the district's curriculum. Her charge also includes oversight of the district's professional learning.

The district's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the three appointments at its April 13 meeting.

Loudermilk will succeed Candace Pohl, who is moving out of the area at the end of the 2020-21 school year, while Minor will take the helm from interim principal Dr. Larry Gerhart, who has served since January.

All three administrators will assume their new roles in the coming summer.

Julie Abram

Abram has served as an instructional leader, district and campus administrator and classroom teacher for more than 29 years. In her current role in Dickinson ISD, she is responsible for several districtwide programs, including gifted and talented, bilingual/English learners, response to intervention, STEM and instructional materials allotment. She additionally leads collaboratives with instructional coaches, curriculum specialists and teachers to analyze PSAT/SAT and Texas Success Initiative Assessment data to improve curriculum alignment and instruction.

Abram holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Western Michigan University and a Master of Science in educational administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is certified as a principal and certified in English, Journalism, Speech and Gifted and Talented.

Jesse Loudermilk

Loudermilk is currently serving as assistant principal at La Porte High School. Prior to his current role, he served as an instructional technology specialist in La Porte ISD and science teacher/head swim and dive coach at La Porte High School. He has served as an educator for 17 years; 14 of those years he has

served in La Porte ISD.

Loudermilk holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Baylor University and a Master of Science in educational leadership from Lamar University. He is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in education through Texas A&M Commerce. He is certified as a principal and certified in composite science.

Blake Minor

Minor currently serves as assistant principal of James H. Baker Sixth Grade Campus. He previously served as assistant principal, math teacher and (several years ago) as a student teacher at Lomax Junior High School. He has served as a first-year teacher mentor in La Porte ISD's First Year Teacher Academy and, as a first-year teacher himself, was honored in 2015 as the district's Rookie Teacher of the Year. Minor is a product of La Porte ISD schools, including La Porte Junior High.

Minor holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematical science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a Master of Education degree from San Angelo State University. He is certified as a principal and mathematics teacher.

As soon as possible under current circumstances, a meet and greet opportunity will be planned for campus and district staff and the community.