

NEWS RELEASE

Orono Public Schools (ISD 278)

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Nickolas Taintor named Orono Schools' Director of Business Services

Taintor will assume the role beginning April 29, 2024

At its April 22 regular meeting, the Orono School Board approved the appointment of Mr. Nickolas Taintor as Orono Schools' next Director of Business Services. Mr. Taintor brings a wealth of expertise in school financial management and strategic planning, making him an outstanding addition to the district leadership team.

Since 2020, Mr. Taintor has held the role of Director of the School Services group at Creative Planning Business Services. Prior to assuming the Director role, Nick served as a Senior Advisor for 11 years to school clients. He specialized in strategic budget development and oversight, cash flow analysis, monthly financial reviews, and board trainings.

Mr. Taintor shared, "My family has lived in the city of Plymouth for many years and Orono Schools has a very good reputation in the area. It was an easy decision to accept the offer of Director of Business Services knowing the district is held in such high regard. What intrigues me the most is the district's values that align very closely to my own. I look forward to putting into practice the values that we share to assist in my role."

As Director of Business Services, Taintor will oversee all financial operations, including budget planning, financial reporting, and resource allocation. In addition, he will supervise business office functions including child nutrition, facilities and maintenance, buildings and grounds, and health and safety. He will also be tasked with leading the Orono School Board's Facilities and Finance Committee.

Superintendent Dr. Kristine Flesher said, "We are so excited for Nick Taintor to join our administrative team. During the interview process—and every interaction we've had since then—Nick has demonstrated an eagerness to learn more about Orono and the needs of our students and community. His skill set and enthusiasm will be invaluable assets to the district. To aid the transition process, Nick will

Orono Public Schools serves more than 2,900 students in grades K-12 from the communities of Independence, Long Lake, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetonka Beach and Orono.

Orono Schools District Office: 685 Old Crystal Bay Road N, Long Lake, MN 55356
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have ongoing support and mentorship from Mr. Jim Westrum who has managed Orono's business office for the last 3 years."

Dr. Flesher added a note of thanks to Mr. Westrum, "I am deeply grateful to Jim for faithfully serving the district during this time. He was a key partner in guiding the district through a successful technology levy in 2022. This, along with his long-term dedication to prudent financial stewardship, will have a positive, lasting impact on our learning community."

Taintor earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Gustavus Adolphus College and holds an active CPA license. He is the former treasurer of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association and is a former College Soccer official. When Nick isn't in the office, he enjoys golfing, running, traveling with his family and supporting his kids' sports activities.

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