



## USD 497 News Release

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### Superintendent Statement Jeanice Kerr Swift

#### Leadership Appointments for 2026-27 School Year

We are pleased to share the appointments of two leaders that will be taking on adjusted leadership roles with Lawrence Public Schools, effective July 1. These moves work to streamline district operations, and ensure that our leadership team is aligned to work more efficiently in support of students and staff.

#### Director of Data, Assessment, and Information Technology



We are pleased to share the appointment of **James Polk** as **Director of Data, Assessment, and Information Technology**. Polk has served as Director of Data and Assessment for the last two years, and will now take on responsibility for all data, assessment and information work in the district, the learning analytics role supports district efforts to improve student outcomes through the strategic use of data and evidence-based decision making.

Swift shares, “In leveraging the data expertise, classroom and school experience, a commitment to students and team-building, James Polk is a talented leader who will work collaboratively to mobilize technology team members in service to and in support of student achievement and teacher effectiveness.”

This role will lead the collection, analysis, and interpretation of student learning, instructional, and systems data to help schools monitor progress toward standards, identify student needs, evaluate the impact of instructional practices and programs, and drive continuous improvement across the district. Polk had previously served as Principal of Quail Run Elementary from August 2020 thru June 2204.

“I am excited and challenged for the opportunity to serve alongside our incredible staff in this expanded role. I believe that it is important to be more intentional than ever about how technology connects to curriculum and instruction; ensuring that every interaction our students and staff have with technology is purposeful, meaningful, and expands what we can accomplish together in Lawrence Public Schools,” said Polk.

(more)

## Director of Communications



We are excited to share the appointment of **Summer Workman** as **Director of Communications**. Workman was hired as Communications Coordinator in August 2025, and will now assume leadership responsibilities for leading all internal and external communications to support the Superintendent, Lawrence Board of Education, and district vision. She will also oversee media, government, and community relations, and work to ensure transparent, timely messaging across platforms, including crisis communication and digital media.

Swift shares, “Summer Workman, an USD 497 alum, is a talented, experienced school communications professional who is also deeply connected to our Lawrence schools and community. She will lead communications with a unique voice and perspective to ensure meaningful connections, to celebrate the story of Lawrence Public Schools and keep the school community engaged and informed.”

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue serving Lawrence Public Schools in this new role and to build on the great work happening across the district. I look forward to continuing to support strong communication with our students and families, staff, and community,” said Workman.

In following through on our commitment to streamline district operations, these appointments represent **no addition** to the total number of administrative positions in the district. With these strategic appointments, we are able to align work more efficiently to ensure opportunities for students in Lawrence Public Schools.

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