

Northland Pines School District Administrator Announces Future Retirement

It is with a touch of remorse that I write this article for the Voice of the Pines. When I was first elected to the Board of Education back in 2009, I began learning everything about being a school board member. I quickly realized that Northland Pines was strategically and systematically being put “on the map” when it came to high flying, well respected school districts in the state, due to Dr. Mike Richie’s leadership and vision. Any exceptional leader will tell you that they surround themselves with great people, then delegate authority, and get out of the way. There is no doubt that Mike has built a solid foundation at Northland Pines and has always been involved in and supported ongoing professional development of staff. He is visible throughout the school district at academic events and at student and community activities. Mike has earned the respect of the Northland Pines community due to his collaborative management style and his encouragement and promotion of business partnerships, which greatly and dually enhanced both the district and community.

I also give credit to all of the board members who served (and continue to serve) during Mike’s tenure; the Board’s collaborative support of Mike and the ways in which board members worked (and continue to work) with him, has proven to be invaluable to the students, staff and entire community of the Northland Pines School District. During his time at Pines, Mike has accomplished (and continues to accomplish) great things which have firmly established the Northland Pines School District as a leading educational institution, not only statewide but nationwide as well. Here are just a few brief highlights:

- The passage of 4 operational referendums
- The construction of a \$28,000,000 LEED Gold Certified public high school
- Implementing all of the Act 10 policies/requirements resulting in substantial cost savings for the district
- The creation of 3 innovative charter schools
- The implementation of pre-Kindergarten
- Building community/business partnerships
- Implementing the 7-12 grade structure
- Establishing our Wisconsin International Student Program (WISP)
- Receiving 4 DPI Rural School Community Partnership Awards
- Recipient of the 2012 National District Administrator of the Year, United States

Dr. Mike Richie submitted a letter of retirement to the Northland Pines Board of Education on Monday, November 27, 2017, at the school board meeting. The retirement effective date will be at the end of his current two year contract, which will be June 30, 2019. Mike submitted his letter well in advance in order to give the Northland Pines Board of Education a substantial amount of time to select and hire the new District Administrator. At the conclusion of his contract, Dr. Richie will have served the Northland Pines School District as the District Administrator for 15 years, making him the longest serving District Administrator in Northland Pines history.

The top priority and number one job of the School Board is the hiring of the District Administrator. The Northland Pines Board of Education has had considerable discussion on this topic; the Board decided not to hire a search firm at this time and they will conduct the search themselves in order to save the district money. Following is the timeline which the Board will follow when posting for this vacancy.

Northland Pines School District – District Administrator Hiring Timeline

Post position: September 1, 2018 through October 1, 2018
Initial Interviews: Week of October 8th
Final Interviews: Week of October 15th
October 29, 2018: Negotiate a contract to begin July 1, 2019

On behalf of the Northland Pines Board of Education, we wish to thank Dr. Mike Richie for his ongoing contributions to students, education, staff and community.

~Holly McCormack, Board President~