

Rhonda Dean named Washburn High School principal

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Dr. Bernadeia H. Johnson, superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), announced last week that former MPS administrator and teacher, Rhonda Dean will lead Washburn High School as its new principal, beginning July 1, 2014. After a national search, MPS selected a candidate with ties to Minneapolis.

Dean has more than 20 years of experience in secondary education. For the past six years, Dean has served as principal of Andover High School in Andover, Minn. Prior to her tenure in Andover, Dean spent 11 years as assistant principal of Wayzata High School in Plymouth, Minn.

"Ms. Dean possesses the character and leadership qualities that will foster an environment of collaboration and high educational standards for all students at Washburn High School," Johnson said. "We are excited for Ms. Dean's arrival and eager for her to start working with the community toward a strong start to the next school year."

"I want to thank Superintendent Johnson for this tremendous opportunity," Dean said. "I am truly humbled by the selection and excited to once again be a part of the Minneapolis Public School system. I am looking forward to working with the students, staff, parents and Washburn community members for years to come."

Dean began her educational career in MPS as a mathematics teacher at Benjamin Banneker, a former MPS school. Dean then served as an administrator at Benjamin Banneker and South High School. She served in MPS from 1991 to 1997.

A Minnesota native, Dean completed her undergraduate work at Cameron University in Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science degree in business education. Dean received her Master of Arts degree in education from St. Mary's University, where she also received her Master of Arts degree in educational administration.

Johnson thanked the Washburn community for participating in the selection process and commended Interim Principal Linda Conley and Assistant Principal Nilo Guanzon for their leadership during the 2013-14 school year.

"Washburn has had a good, solid year and it's clear that students and staff have been focused on learning," she said. "I am confident that Washburn will continue down the path of achievement for all students and realize a strong school for the families in their community."