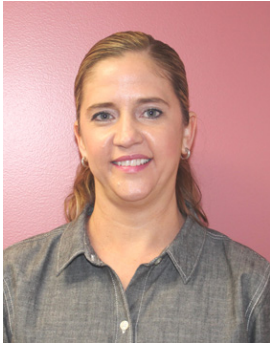


Melissa Jackson named new principal for Forest Elementary School

Written by
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During the April 23 school board meeting, Robbinsdale Area Schools Superintendent Aldo Sicoli recommended Melissa Jackson as the new principal of Forest Elementary School, replacing longtime administrator Connie Grumdahl who retired at the end of 2013.

"We are pleased to welcome Ms. Jackson and know she will be a valuable addition to Robbinsdale Area Schools," said Sicoli as he presented Jackson to the school board.

Jackson is currently the principal of Bethune Community School in Minneapolis. As principal of Bethune Community School for the last three years, she has led the school's instructional program to ensure that all students are career and college ready. As a leader of a challenging turnaround school, Jackson created a sense of urgency to achieve goals and attain success.

"I'm excited to be coming to Forest Elementary and work with such a tremendous staff," Jackson said. "I look forward to meeting the Forest families and working with the surrounding community to ensure each Forest student achieves academic excellence."

Prior to her tenure at Bethune Community School, Jackson was assistant principal at Lucy Laney Community School in Minneapolis for two years.

Jackson is a graduate of Foley High School in Foley, Minn. Her major area of study as an undergraduate at Saint Cloud State University was special education. She holds a Master's Degree in Education as well as a K-12 Principal's Licensure from Saint Mary's/University of Minnesota. Jackson will assume her position July 1, 2014.