

Ohio School Boards Association

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Former school administrator, teacher is association's new deputy chief executive

COLUMBUS — A former central Ohio school administrator and teacher with more than 20 years in education has joined the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) as its deputy chief executive.

Dr. Kathy McFarland comes from Olentangy Local Schools' Orange High School in Delaware County, where she served as principal for more than two years. She spent eight years at Olentangy Local's Hyatts Middle School as its principal. She also was an assistant principal at North Union Local's North Union High School in Union County after teaching English, public speaking and other related courses at Dublin City and Olentangy Local schools.

McFarland brings an enormous skill set to the association, OSBA Chief Executive Officer Richard Lewis said. She fills the role held by Rob Delane, who retired in August after 17 years with the association.

"Kathy has extensive experience in many areas, including continuous improvement planning; setting and monitoring institutional and individual goals; research; instruction; public speaking; and organizational management," Lewis said. "At Orange, she directed a staff of more than 170 administrators, teachers and support staff. Just as important, Kathy has the enthusiasm and passion for her work that makes her a great fit with the members of the OSBA Board of Trustees and staff."

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The graduate of Worthington City Schools earned her bachelor's in communications from North Carolina State University, where she swam competitively. She continued her education at the University of Dayton, where she completed her master's in educational leadership. She earned a doctorate in educational leadership at Ohio University.

Currently, she is an adjunct faculty member at Capital University and collaborates with researchers at Ohio State University on successful students.

McFarland remains committed to advancing student achievement and has watched her children succeed in public schools. Daniel is a senior at Olentangy Local's Liberty High School. Kristen majors in communications at Florida State University and plays for the women's soccer team. Katy, a senior at OSU, is studying neuroscience and Spanish.

"Public schools have prepared them for the next step," McFarland said. "We are here to help guide every student to success once they leave the public schoolhouse."

In its 63rd year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.