

Valley Heights USD 498 names new Supt.

(KMZA)--A new superintendent has been hired for Valley Heights USD 498.

The USD 498 Board of Education, in a release posted on its website, announced the selection of Melissa Kennedy for the position.

Kennedy will take over July 1st following the retirement of John Bergkamp.

She was among three finalists interviewed last week for the position.

Kennedy has broad educational experience as a teacher, curriculum director and as a principal. She spent twenty-four of her twenty-seven years in education in Vermillion USD 380 as an elementary teacher at Frankfort before becoming curriculum director for the district. Since 2017, Kennedy has served as grade school principal in Buhler.

She has a Bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and a Master's degree from Fort Hays State University. Kennedy graduated from Nemaha Valley High School in Seneca.

Kennedy said she's excited to join the Valley Heights school district.

She said her goal is to sustain the rich traditions of student achievement and community pride that USD 498 is known for, while consistently challenging the district's students as they strive for their enduring future successes.

The board said in the release they feel they made the right selection to serve the district's students and community.