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For Immediate Release

District 50 Names New Principals to Washington School and Crosby Elementary

HARVARD, Ill. — Students will be greeted by two new principals this year in Harvard District 50. Washington School Principal Nikki Gardner and Crosby Elementary School Principal Kathleen Ferguson were both approved by the district's Board of Education in June.

Superintendent Dr. Corey Tafoya is thrilled with the new hires.

"Gardner has a terrific leadership background working with young children," Tafoya said. "And we're excited for the focus on literacy that Ferguson will bring to our elementary students."

Principal Gardner spent the past six years as an assistant principal of an all kindergarten building in Round Lake, Illinois. Gardner has over twenty years of educational experience, working in the classroom teaching kindergarten, first, second, and third grades in Missouri. She holds a master's degree in educational administration from William Woods University and is in the dissertation phase of her doctoral degree in educational leadership.

"I believe that one of the most important aspects of my work as the principal of Washington is building meaningful relationships with students, families, and teachers," Gardner said.

Most recently, Principal Ferguson worked as a reading specialist for eight years in Burlington, Wisconsin. Her first teaching position was right out of college, where she taught for seven years as a fifth-grade teacher. Ferguson has also taught seventh and eighth-grade. She holds a master's in reading instruction from George Williams College and a master's in educational administration from Concordia University.

Like Gardner, Ferguson sees relationships as the key factor in student success. "I am looking forward to an exciting 2019-2020 school year and the opportunity to build relationships with our amazing staff, students, and families," Ferguson said.

Both principals will welcome students on the first day of school on Thursday, August 15.

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