



Libertyville School District 70 Board of Education members unanimously approved hiring John Herrin, a 6-year school finance veteran, as the next director of finance and operations for the 2020-21 school year.

During an Oct. 28 School Board meeting, School Board members agreed to hire Herrin with a one year contract for an annual salary of \$150,000. Herrin, 35, will finish the year as the Chief School Business Official of Grayslake Community Consolidated School District 46, where he has worked since

May 2018.

Herrin will be replacing Dr. Kurt Valentin, who will retire on June 30, 2020, after serving District 70 for 20 years. “Dr. Valentin has served District 70 with distinction and will be greatly missed,” said District 70 Supt. Dr. Matt Barbini.

Given the importance of the role that Herrin will be starting on July 1, 2020, school board members, teachers, principals, the D70 family association, and central office administrators were involved in the recruitment and selection process.

“John is humble, articulate, student-centric, and customer service oriented,” Barbini said. “These characteristics, coupled with his experience and professional preparation, are well suited to District 70. I am honored and excited to welcome John into the D70 family.”

Herrin is just as pleased to join District 70.

“Libertyville is an exciting opportunity for me,” said Herrin. “In so many ways, Libertyville sets the standard of what a great education is and can be. I am ecstatic to come and learn from all the staff in Libertyville while adding my own experience and perspective where appropriate.”

In District 46, Herrin has worked with multi-million dollar budgets, a staff of more than 540 and a student population larger than 3,600, and oversaw operations and maintenance departments. Before joining Grayslake District 46, Herrin spent a year as the comptroller for Zion Elementary School District 6.

He received his master's degree in School Business Management from Northern Illinois University in May 2017. In fact, one of John's instructors at NIU was Dr.Valentin.

Herrin began his school career as the account payable and chief school business intern in 2013 in Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103.

"For my career, I have always had a passion to serve," said Herrin, who lives with "the love of my life," his wife, Madeleine. "I received my undergraduate degree from Wheaton College in Philosophy and started working on a Masters of Divinity from Trinity International University in Bolingbrook. To make ends meet, I started working in the Business Office at Lincolnshire-Prairieview School District 103. It was after just a few months there that I saw the opportunity to take my passion for service, creative thinking, and people to a career where I can invest in the future of our communities, state, and nation. I saw that it truly takes a community to raise a child, from the teacher in the classroom, to the custodian sweeping floors, to all the support the central office provides. I immediately left my Masters of Divinity program and enrolled at Northern Illinois University to receive my Masters in School Business Administration."

Through his career, Herrin has worked in financially struggling school districts as well as a financially stable school district. "What each district shared and what continued to grow in me was a passion for two things: serving students and responsible stewardship of community resources," he added.

Herrin is a member of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials and the Northeast Illinois Association of School Business Officials. Herrin and his wife enjoy cooking and gardening, as well as their friendships.

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