



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLANO ISD CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Randy McDowell to retire after distinguished 30-year career in public education

PLANO, TX, October 27, 2021 – Plano Independent School District Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Randy McDowell has announced his retirement effective December 31, 2021, after a 35-year career in public education.

Serving as Plano ISD’s CFO since 2017, Mr. McDowell’s leadership has helped maintain the Plano ISD legacy of financial responsibility, which includes the district continuing to earn the highest stand-alone credit ratings (Aaa / AA+) carried by any school district in Texas and the Texas Education Agency’s (TEA) School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) top rating of “superior achievement.”

As CFO, Mr. McDowell oversees Plano ISD’s finances, budgeting, accounting, payroll and accounts payable, along with facilities management, demographic planning, purchasing and facility construction and renovation. Mr. McDowell was recognized earlier this year for his esteemed work when he was named the 2021 recipient of the Commitment to Excellence Award. This award is the highest individual honor presented to a Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) member who best distinguishes themselves within their profession, within their district and within TASBO.

“Randy McDowell is a knowledgeable and astute school finance and business services professional,” said Plano ISD Superintendent of Schools Sara Bonser. “He has been an excellent leader, advisor and asset to Plano ISD, and will be greatly missed.”

Mr. McDowell’s commitment and service to public education began while working his way through college as a school bus driver. After graduating with a business administration degree

from West Texas A&M University, he began his career in accounting at Canyon Independent School District. Since then, he has served as chief financial officer in four school districts and as a school finance expert at Texas's Region 16 Education Service Center.

His active professional leadership profile includes serving as a Registered Texas School Business Administrator (RTSBA) and as president of TASBO. Mr. McDowell has also served as the TASBO Legislative/Governmental Relations Committee board liaison; the TEA's Accounting and Auditing Committee co-chair; TEA School Finance council member; Panhandle School Leaders Association president; Panhandle TASBO affiliate president; and as the Property Casualty Alliance of Texas (PCAT) president. Through this service, he has also mentored many financial professionals who are new to the profession or new to their positions.

"I wouldn't have made it in this profession without the strong network of mentors and peers that I've had," Mr. McDowell said. "My hope is that I've made a positive impact on my profession and on the next generation of school business professionals. I've been truly blessed in my whole career to work with great people and great school districts."

Mr. McDowell is looking forward to continuing to work with school districts in a financial consulting role and will continue to advocate for public education because he knows that the future of our state is dependent on a highly educated workforce. He is also looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild in the near future and spending time with them.

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 7,000 staff members who serve more than 50,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

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