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**FOR RELEASE**

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## **DISTRICT 181 APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH HMS NEW CONSTRUCTION OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE, MR. KERRY LEONARD**

On February 13, 2017, the Community Consolidated School District 181 Board of Education approved an agreement with Kerry Leonard to serve as Owner's Representative, the District's project manager for the construction of a new Hinsdale Middle School. Superintendent Dr. Don White explains that the Board of Education and administration were looking to hire someone to represent the District's interests for the duration of the project, pre-construction through post-construction. The position was posted in November and applications were due in December. Interviews were held with the top four candidates. "We were fortunate to have a number of high quality individuals apply," Dr. White notes.

"The Owner's Representative responsibilities require expertise in both commercial construction and education, and we certainly found that with Mr. Leonard," Dr. White remarks. Leonard is a registered architect in Illinois and Indiana with 35 years of experience on K-12 educational projects, including leadership in the architectural process for 22 new buildings in Illinois. "Mr. Leonard brings the experience to our team that will help ensure a successful project for our community. He knows the right questions to ask and how to facilitate a strong working relationship between the architect, construction manager, administration, Board of Education, and our community partners."

The position is part-time, with a time commitment estimated at 20 hours per week. "Due to the scope and scale of this project, and the time commitment that will be required, we need someone at the table whose primary responsibility is representing the District's interests," Dr. White says.

Leonard notes, "The role of Owner's Representative is to lead and advise the administration and Board

through design and construction. Educators have a full-time job that does not include the time and effort required of an owner on a major construction project. I believe my experience and perspective can help District 181 make a better environment for teaching and learning. I believe in helping owners better understand their facilities and the impact facilities can have, allowing them to better use the buildings to support their educational mission."

An overview of Leonard's experience is available on the District website, on the same page where project updates and resources are posted: [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) > Our District > HMS Construction.

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*Caption: On February 13, 2017, the Community Consolidated School District 181 Board of Education approved the hiring of Kerry Leonard as Owner's Representative, the District's project manager for the construction of a new Hinsdale Middle School.*