

Great Start Cohort and Finance Academy - Presenters
November 18, 2020
Virtual Session

Session Facilitator

Kelly D. Smith

Director

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

Retired Superintendent, Belle Plaine Public Schools

Kelly.Smith@bakertilly.com

Dr. Kelly D. Smith is a Director at Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC (formerly Springsted). He previously served for 24 years as superintendent in Minnesota in several Greater Minnesota districts and is a past President of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA). Dr. Smith also has experience as a school district business manager in Minnesota.

Dr. Smith brings a number of skills to the Baker Tilly team including experience in school district re-organization, facilitating bond & operating levy campaigns, developing budgets and finding financial solutions to issues faced by school districts today.

Rob Prater

Superintendent

Hinckley-Finlayson Public Schools

201 Main Street, Box 308

Hinckley, MN 55037

320-384-6277

rprater@hf.k12.mn.us

Before moving to the Hinckley-Finlayson District, Mr. Prater was a Dean and Administrator in Robbinsdale for three years. He also was a social studies teacher for eight years in Robbinsdale and in Maryland. He was the Hinckley-Finlayson High School Principal from 2006-2011 and became the Superintendent for the Hinckley-Finlayson School District in 2011.

Andrew Almos

Superintendent

East Central Schools

61085 State Highway 23

Finlayson, MN 55735

320-245-2289

aalmos@eastcentral.k12.mn.us

Andy Almos has been Superintendent of East Central Schools since 2013. Prior to East Central Andy served as 7-12 Principal of Maple Lake Public Schools, K-12 Principal of Goodridge Public Schools, and taught technology education at Shakopee Public

Schools. Andy participated in the MASA Great Start Cohort during the 2013-2014 school year.

David Law

Superintendent
Anoka-Hennepin School District
2727 Ferry Street North
Anoka, MN 55303
763-506-1001
David.Law@ahschools.us

David Law is the superintendent for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hamline University with a major in mathematics and a minor in education. He began his career as a middle school math teacher in 1991 in the Murrieta Valley School District in Murrieta, California. From 1992 to 1998, he taught math in the school he graduated from, Coon Rapids High School. In 1998 he began his administrative career working as a Dean of Students at Edgewood Middle School in the Mounds View School District. David earned his Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law and also completed his K-12 Principal Licensure from the University of Minnesota in 2000. He became Assistant Principal at Sandburg Middle School in Anoka-Hennepin in 2000. In 2007 he became the Principal at Sunrise Park Middle School in the White Bear Lake Area School District. David completed his superintendent license at the University of Minnesota in 2010 and was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent for White Bear Lake where he stayed until 2014. He has been an adjunct professor at both Bethel University in the Graduate School of Education and at the University of Minnesota in the Organizational Leadership and Policy Development department. David was the recipient of the 2020 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

Cherie Johnson

Executive Director
Goodhue County Ed. District
395 Guernsey Lane
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-388-4441
cjohnson@gced.k12.mn.us

Cherie Johnson is in her fourteenth year at the Goodhue County Education District. Prior to working in Goodhue County, Cherie was the Assistant Director of Special Education for the Red Wing School District. Cherie received her master's in Special Education at Marywood University in Pennsylvania. She received her Director of Special Education Administrative license from the University of Minnesota. She has served on the MASE Board and committees for eleven years. Cherie currently serves as a co-chair on the Governor's School Finance Task Force.