**Minnesota Association of School Administrators**

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**News Release**

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**Mike Kolness Named Administrator of Excellence**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Mike Kolness, Superintendent of East Grand Forks Public Schools, as a 2018 Administrator of Excellence. Kolness received this award in recognition of his leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. He was honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 8-9, 2018, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Kolness’ achievements reflect his ability to lead important changes in the educational system. Prior to his position in East Grand Forks, Kolness was a Dean of Students, Principal, and then Superintendent at Ada-Borup Public Schools.

Kolness is an active member and leader in many educational and community organizations. His membership and involvement include: MASA, American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA), Area Special Education Cooperative, and the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Kolness received his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University - Moorhead and his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physical Education from Mayville State University.

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota’s school leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of special education, and other central office administrators, as well as state department administrators, college and university professors, and other educators throughout Minnesota dedicated to educational leadership for students.

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