



## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Ingram appoints new principal for High School of Commerce**

July 9, 2009 - Moving quickly to ensure stability at the High School of Commerce, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alan J. Ingram today appointed Central High School Assistant Principal Paul A. Nycz (pronounced nitch) principal of the High School of Commerce.

Nycz has worked as an assistant principal in the district since 2000 at both Putnam Technical Vocational High School (2000 – 2003) and Central (2003 to 2009). His experience in the district dates back 18 years, when he was hired as a Special Education teacher at Putnam. There, he served as chairman of the Special Education Department and coordinated behavioral programming for the school.

Last month, Nycz was one of 20 applicants seeking to replace the retiring principal of Central High School. Of those 20, Nycz was one of only three finalists who made it through a rigorous process designed to find the most qualified and talented candidates.

During that process, applicants submitted resumes, letters of intent, references and transcripts. A selection committee reviewed applications; checked all references and reviewed applicants' attendance and evaluation records for the past three years.

The next step included an interview with Nycz by a team of directors, staff, parents and teachers. Having received a favorable recommendation from this group, Nycz was then assessed on his instructional leadership and a case study performance. Finally, the Superintendent interviewed Nycz as a finalist in June.

Today, Ingram called Nycz the ideal candidate for principal of the High School of Commerce who has the experience, skill, and support system necessary to ensure a seamless transition for the start of the school year and strong leadership moving forward.

“Based on Paul’s stellar performance throughout the extremely rigorous and demanding principal application process and his background in the district, I have full confidence that he will lead the High School of Commerce in the direction that our students, parents and employees deserve and should expect of a principal,” said Ingram.

Nycz, who lives in Westfield, said he is thrilled with the opportunity. "I am ready to get started right away working hard on behalf all of the students, faculty and staff at the High School of Commerce," he said.

Nycz replaces Stephen Collins, who Ingram relieved of his duties yesterday based on results of an internal investigation that showed Collins allowed 10 seniors to graduate in June even though he knew or should have known they had not fulfilled graduation requirements.

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