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Lowe, SWHS assistant principal, to lead Jennings Creek

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Nicholas Lowe
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On Monday, Nicholas Lowe, an assistant principal at South Warren High School, will step into his role as the next principal of Jennings Creek Elementary School.

“I am beyond excited for the opportunity,” Lowe, 38, said after the announcement Thursday. “It’s not something that I ever will take lightly because it’s a big responsibility.”

Cody Rich, who previously held the position for two years, became principal of Warren County Public Schools' new IMPACT Center for Leadership and Innovation this month.

Lowe, as well as teachers at Jennings Creek, said they look forward to his building on the school's recent successes. WCPS and Jennings Creek teachers said that under Rich's leadership, the school increased its reading and math scores and built additional opportunities for students such as new clubs and leadership roles.

Lowe said that first and foremost, he aims to build culture and relationships with the staff and the school's student body, which comprised 851 children last academic year.

"My goal is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders of the Jennings Creek community to keep the great work that is being done there moving forward," he said.

Prior to his 5-year term as assistant principal, Lowe taught a range of social studies courses at Greenwood High for just over a decade, mostly while serving as athletic director.

"I was a senior in high school, and I decided to go into education," he said. "Never changed."

Lowe has a bachelor's in social studies and a master's in Secondary Education – Teacher Leadership, both from Western Kentucky University. He also completed WKU's School Administration, Rank 1 program.

But his ties to education go deeper, particularly in Warren County. His mother taught kindergarten for 30 years. His sister is an elementary educator in Warren County. He's also invested in Warren County Public Schools as a father, with two children in WCPS and one about to start preschool there.

The five Jennings Creek-based council members in charge of finding a new principal distributed a survey to employees and parents in multiple languages to figure out which qualities the community especially sought, said Julia King, a Jennings Creek ESL teacher who took part in the search. The council based its interview questions and selection on those qualities.

"What I'm looking for is someone to just be supportive to teachers and continue with the growth at Jennings Creek," said Megan Ashby, a fifth-grade teacher at Jennings Creek.

Matt Deaton, principal at South Warren High School, said that Lowe's main strengths are being "extremely conscientious," getting things done right, building relationships and supporting staff and students.

Cyndi Bell, a former co-assistant principal with Lowe, said he's more of a servant leader.

"If he sees something that needs to be done, he jumps in there and immediately does it," Bell said. "He's never willing to ask somebody to do something that he's not willing to do himself."

Reflecting the lessons he learned working in secondary education, Lowe said there's sometimes a tendency to be "so focused on our content and getting into college."

"They're kids," he said. "We're there to help them, we're there to support them, we're there to be that safety net – because they're still growing," he said.

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