

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Principals Look Forward to Their Roles in Continuing Success and Excellence in EDUHSD



Chas Prior



Paul Neville

The upcoming school year will bring new leadership to two El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) schools. Chas Prior and Paul Neville, both previous assistant principals at El Dorado High School, have moved up in ranks to assume their respective positions as principals at El Dorado High School (EDHS) and Union Mine High School (UMHS).

Prior has held several positions within the district over the past 15 years including teacher and assistant principal at UMHS, lead teacher at Mountain View High School and his most recent role as assistant principal at EDHS—a position he has held since 2010. He brings an additional 11 years of experience from Laguna Blanca School in Santa Barbara where he taught, coached and acted as the school's athletic director.

"I had been coaching and teaching racquetball for six or seven years and coaching other sports most of my teen and adult life," Prior said. "Teaching seemed the natural progression."

In his most recent role as assistant principal, Prior said the most rewarding aspect was working with the "incredible" EDHS administrative staff of Matt Barnes (departing principal), Becca Kaldunski (previous assistant principal), Leslie Redkey (assistant principal), Paul Neville (departing assistant principal/incoming UMHS principal), Kevin Potter (activities Director) and Joe Volek (athletic director). What he will miss the most is the direct contact with the students.

"It changes when you move to the principal position. I will still see the students, but not as frequently as an assistant principal does."

Prior's colleague, Paul Neville, has also transitioned out of his role as assistant principal at EDHS to fill the vacancy left at the UMHS principal's desk following Tony DeVille's shift to his role as assistant superintendent of human resources at the district office. Neville has been in the district for one year. He was a previous coach for three years and substitute teacher for one year at Rio Linda High School (Twin Rivers Unified School District) before establishing himself as a teacher, coach and assistant principal for a combined nine years at Amador High School (Amador County Unified School District).

Neville credits his career path to his parents.

"I witnessed the hard work and pride my parents took in working with young people," he said. "During my sophomore year in college I decided that I wanted to be an educator."

Neville said he will greatly miss the connections with the staff and student body at EDHS, but he is excited about the opportunity for a new challenge.

As each of these leaders prepare for their new adventures their focus, rightly so, remains on the students:

"Union Mine has a rich history of academic, athletic and cultural excellence that is a result of the student-centered approach that our school faculty, staff, students, parents and community stakeholders all share. My goals for the upcoming school year and throughout my time at Union Mine will be to continue to build on the tremendous school culture that already exists and to work tirelessly to create the best learning environment for all students. I am truly honored to be appointed to this position and am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff to provide the best possible educational experience for our students." – Paul Neville

"This is an amazing school filled with incredible educators and children. We have so many good things going right now. I feel my job is to help our staff continue to improve and make sure we give help to students who need it in order to be successful. Most importantly, to continue to foster the positive culture that Kevin Potter and the Leadership classes have created over the past few years." – Chas Prior

The El Dorado Union High School District is committed to educating each student in a safe, supportive environment that will challenge students to pursue appropriate, rigorous paths for academic and career development and achievement that lead to lifelong learning and a productive adulthood.

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