



### **Shumpert, Knight Named New Principals**

**TUPELO, Miss.** — All principals are now in place for the 2019-20 school year after the Tupelo Public School District Board of Trustees approved the hiring Friday afternoon of Ian Shumpert and Talina Knight.

They will assume their new roles on July 1 — Shumpert at Lawhon and Knight at Lawndale. Both are currently assistant principals at the Middle School.

“When we started the process of looking at candidates, we felt we had to make a perfect hire at both schools,” TPSD superintendent Dr. Rob Picou said. “After going through all the interview rounds and getting an understanding of their visions, I’m confident we achieved that goal, and that they will be great fits at their respective schools. We met with the staff at both schools seeking input on what they are looking for in a principal, and I’m confident Mr. Shumpert and Mrs. Knight will diligently meet those needs.”

Knight, who earned her bachelor’s in Education degree at Mississippi State in 1995 and her master’s in Educational Leadership from Ole Miss in 2011, has been the assistant principal at TMS since 2013. She also spent two years at THS as the test coordinator. In addition to a one-year Principal Corps Internship in New Albany, she was a 7<sup>th</sup>-grade English teacher at TMS from 1996-2010.

She was also Teacher of Distinction winner in 2007.

“God has blessed me with the amazing opportunity to serve the wonderful community of teachers, students and parents of Lawndale Elementary,” said Knight, who is also a National Board Certified Teacher. “I am grateful for the school board’s and district leaders’ faith in me, and I cannot wait to begin this new journey with the Lawndale family.”

Shumpert received his master’s degree from Ole Miss after completing his undergraduate degree from Rust College in 1992.

He's been at the Middle School since 2015 and oversaw the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. From 2012-2015, he was the assistant principal at Lawndale and helped that school reach an A-rating.

He's also spent time at Lawhon as an administrative intern in 2012, while teaching 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Milam and Carver in prior years.

In 2015, Shumpert received the L.D. Hancock Award. He's also a four-time Teacher of Distinction nominee, while in 2002 and 2005 he was the Carver Teacher of the Year.

"Although I will miss the TMS Family, I am blessed and honored to have the opportunity to serve as the leader of Lawhon," he said.

TPSD will have four new principals next year, including Mark Enis at TMS and Heather Cartwright at Rankin.

Also approved Friday were the following positions:

**April West-McIntosh**, Tupelo Middle School Assistant Principal

**Landon Morse**, Tupelo Middle School Assistant Principal

**Taylor Sparks**, Rankin Assistant Principal

**Christy Jordan**, Lawndale Assistant Principal

**Kama Smith**, Lawhon Assistant Principal

**Summer Allen**, Tupelo Middle School Testing Coordinator

**Misty McRae**, Coordinator of Instructional Technology

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