

February 9, 2006

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Spring Lake Park High school principal Glenn Martin announces plans to retire at the end of the year

“There comes a time,” said Spring Lake Park High School principal Glenn Martin, “for all of us to turn the page and enter a new chapter in the book of life.” At an after-school meeting with the high school staff on Wednesday, February 8, Martin shared with his staff that after “considerable thought, planning, and discussion,” he was announcing his decision to retire at the end of the 2005-06 school year.

He added: “I’m so excited about the direction the district is going, that it made it much harder for me to decide to leave in June. But, it’s my decision, and the time is right for me.”

Martin is in his 37th year with the Spring Lake Park School District, the past 17 as principal of the 1,300-student high school. During his District 16 career, he was also Westwood Junior High principal for one year, assistant principal at the high school for one year, and he served as junior high dean of students and assistant principal for eight years. He was also a math and physical education instructor, and coach, at the junior high and high school for 11 years.

Superintendent Don Helmstetter praised Martin for his “distinguished service, his intellect, leadership, and his passion for students, staff, parents, and the community.” He has always, Helmstetter added, “exuded class and total commitment. This is a far-better school district because Glenn Martin has been a part of it.”

Helmstetter also thanked Martin for making an early announcement of his intention to retire. It’s a “classy, professional move,” he said. “I know that one of the reasons he did so is that this will benefit the high school and the school district in developing a smooth transition process.”

He said that he expects that a process and direction for finding a replacement would be announced within a week.

Helmstetter said that whether a process concludes with an internal candidate or one from outside the district, all current high school initiatives would “absolutely” be continued. “Many exciting things are happening at the high school, the future is bright, and we will continue with the work of the Continuous Improvement and Effectiveness Study.”

The new leader at the high school, he said, “will also have the desire and the skill to foster a commitment among staff, and the student and parent communities, in creating the conditions for equity and excellence.” He added that the new principal would also work to “ensure that all students who graduate from Spring Lake Park High School are college-ready and fully prepared for their next level of learning.”