

# **PRINCIPALS AS TRANSFORMATION LEADERS**

**October 26, 2017**

**Dr. Donna Cooner and  
Dr. Wendy Fothergill, Moderators**

# Welcome to the Series...



**Dr. Donna Cooner**

**Dr. Wendy Fothergill**

# Principals as Transformation Leaders: Serving Urban, Rural and Alternative Settings

# Sammi Swennes

Principal, Big Sandy School District

**Sammi Swennes** is the secondary Principal for grades 6th – 12th at Big Sandy School District in Simla, Colorado. Big Sandy School District houses Pre-school through 12th grade in one building, with just over 300 total students. The school district is 550 square miles and serves a large farming/ranching demographic. She has been in education for 17 years, all of those spent in rural school districts in Eastern Colorado. This is her 8th year as principal in the Big Sandy School District. Being in rural settings for her career and the unique needs that come up each year, Sammi has taught 6th grade, junior high science and math, elementary technology, Title 1, kindergarten & middle school P.E. and continues to teach 8th grade Algebra 1 while being principal.



# Mackenzie Grate

Assistant Principal, Highland Park Community School

**Mackenzie Grate** is the Assistant Principal at Highland Park Community School in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a middle school educator for the past eleven years in New York City. Graduating from NYU with a Master's Degree in English Education and TESOL, she is extremely passionate about restoring and creating more engaging literacy opportunities within urban middle school curriculums. When not in school she can be found snuggling her two pugs and reading a good book.



# Dr. Allen Pratt

**Executive Director, Tennessee Rural Education Association**

**Dr. Allen Pratt** has served as a high school science teacher and coach, a high school principal, assistant superintendent/curriculum director, executive director of the Tennessee Rural Education Association, executive director of the East Tennessee Center of Regional Excellence for the Tennessee Department of Education, and rural outreach liaison for Lincoln Memorial University. His primary interests are those issues which impact rural schools and the role of instructional leaders at the district and building levels. He is also involved at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Education and Educational Leadership.



**This webinar will include time for Q&A, so please type in your questions and we will try to get to as many as possible.**

**It will also be recorded and archived for future reference.**

# What are the most critical skills you see in a principal in your setting?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate

# What are some best practices for principals for attracting and retaining quality teachers?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate

# What specific challenges do you have with teacher retention in your setting?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate



**Questions?**

# What key incentives can you provide for teacher retention?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate

# How does the principal directly impact student achievement in your specific setting?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate



**Questions?**

# How can principal preparation programs best prepare new principals for your particular settings?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate

# What advice would you give a new principal entering your setting?



Sammi Swennes



Dr. Allen Pratt



MacKenzie Grate



**Questions?**



**Thank you!**



# Next Webinar: Principals as Transformation Leaders: Changing School Cultures

**Thursday 11/9 3:00 EST**