NEWS RELEASE

Wayne Township Board of Education
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For Immediate Release

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Wayne Valley High School Mourns the Loss of Beloved Principal Ken Palczewski

Wayne, NJ—With profound sadness, Wayne Township Public Schools announces the passing of Principal Ken Palczewski, a dedicated educator, compassionate leader, and beloved member of our community.

A pillar of Wayne Valley High School for over a decade, Mr. Palczewski served as principal with unwavering commitment, integrity, and heart. His leadership shaped the school into not only an institution of academic excellence but also a place of belonging and support for students, staff, and families alike.

"Ken was more than just a principal — he was the heart of Wayne Valley," said Superintendent Dr. Mark Toback. "His care for every student, his dedication to his staff, and the sense of family and *Valley Pride* he brought to our school community made an indelible impact. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in every hallway and classroom. Ken made everyone feel seen and heard. Whether it was a student in need or a teacher looking for support, he always had time. He made us better — not just as educators, but as people."

Mr. Palczewski's career in education spanned over 30 years. He began his career as a teacher and coach and eventually became a respected leader admired for his thoughtful decision-making, steady guidance, and sincere passion for student growth. He championed many initiatives, always placing students and staff at the center of his work.

Outside of school, Ken was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He often spoke with pride about his children, sharing their milestones with the same joy he celebrated student achievements. Those who knew him beyond the office doors will remember his warm smile, quick wit, and deep love for his family.

In this time of mourning, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Palczewski family and all who knew and loved him.

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