

Admin. contracts approved, elementary teacher hired

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Contracts for three administrators were approved, and a new elementary teacher hired at the May 19 meeting of Holyoke School Dist. Re-1J Board of Education.

A 35-minute executive session relative to new personnel and classified staff renewals was held prior to the contract votes.

New superintendent Bret Miles was given a two-year contract, with the first-year salary at \$90,000. His contract is effective July 1.

One-year principal contracts were approved for Elementary Principal Jennifer Kral at \$58,257 and for JR/SR High Principal Susan Ortnier at \$63,458. Supt. Stephen Bohrer indicated the salaries represent a one percent increase from this year.

David Bloemker of Greeley was offered an elementary school teaching contract for the 2009-10 school year, and will be teaching fifth grade.

He earned his B.A. degree in history and Spanish, with an emphasis in liberal arts from UNC in Greeley a year ago. He is completing his post-baccalaureate licensure program for elementary education through UNC this month, and his Colorado initial teacher license is anticipated in August.

In recommending Bloemker for the position, Principal Kral cited he is proficient in speaking, writing, reading and listening to Spanish.

Kral explained Bloemker will serve a third fifth-grade class for 2009-10. The fourth grade will be reduced to two sections, and teacher Susan Renquist will move to second grade, where three sections will be required.

Preliminary budget proposed

A preliminary budget for 2009-10 was reviewed and approved as proposed at last week's board meeting.

Director of budget and finance Sharon Thompson noted the budget reflects the staffing scheduled for Holyoke Elementary, as well as classes that will be taught at the JR/SR high. She added the five-year average for student count funding stayed in the finance formula for the coming year.

The proposed June budget notes a \$1.45 million beginning fund balance and a projected \$97,583 expenditures over revenues.

Classified, summer staff approved

Classified staff were recommended for employment for 2009-10 as follows:

Budget and finance director, Sharon Thompson; computer technology, Perry Ingram; maintenance/repair person, Stan Kreider; grounds supervisor, Jerry Owens.

Secretaries Tammy Kroeger, Brenda Krueger, Sharon Murray (also activities director), Joan Price, Tammie Timm and Kimberly Young.

Teacher aides Kimberly Anderson, Miriam Bencomo, Tracey Cordova, Sara Drongesen, Andrea Hershfeldt, Tancy King, David Maldonado, Sara McMurrin, Leticia Penzing, Laura Roll, Christy Shafer, Summer Struckmeyer and Nancy Woodhead.

Custodians Brian Adams, Edward Albrecht, Paul Speicher and Pyong Lee; Food Service Margaret Busch and Diana Lauer.

Transportation Robert Jacobs, Dottie DePriest, Mark Groshans, Fletcher Hinck, Dave Johnson, Scott Murray, Kimberly Young and Michelle Gregg.

Summer school program and staff approved for June include high school instructors Scott Dille and Sarah Dille and elementary instructors Kerri Gardner, Jenny McKenny, Drew Perego

Admin. contracts approved, elementary teacher hired

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

and Kari Sandquist at \$35 per hour; and aide Christy Shafer at \$20 per hour.

Work staff approved for the summer includes David Maldonado, Jane Encinias, Summer Struckmeyer, Andrea Hershfeldt, Tracey Cordova and Brett Cumming.

Laura Loutensock demonstrates clickers

In a classroom teacher report, fourth grade teacher Laura Loutensock and student Tyler Camblin demonstrated “clickers.”

Resembling a remote-control unit, a clicker is used by each student to record an answer to a question displayed on a screen. The computer then displays those answers on the screen, noting correct and incorrect responses.

Loutensock said the kids really love to use clickers. So far, they’re most helpful in review, but she hopes to use them for assessment in the future.

Curriculum update

Curriculum coordinator Kimberlee Bennett and fine arts curriculum chair Pat Wiebers reported on the fine arts and science curricula that will return to the June 2 board meeting for approval.

Bennett summarized all curriculum study and emphasized she’s impressed with the communication that occurs. She said she feels the district is right on target, and the process used is a good one. She cited appreciation for Dr. Bohrer for guiding the K-12 curriculum direction.

Supt. reports

Reporting on the alternative school, Supt. Bohrer said he’s decided not to apply for a grant for remodeling the current building or for building a new structure.

He noted with two approved restrooms in the school, building capacity would be 49. However, with only one bathroom, the alternative school would be limited to 15 occupants.

He’s been in communication with incoming superintendent Bret Miles on updates at the alternative school so Miles can be prepared to step in to the situation.

Earlier in the meeting, Michelle Van Overbeke spoke to the board about the final stages of the grant preparation for requesting capital construction grant funds for the heating, venting and air conditioning project completed last summer.

She noted they’ve always known the grant application was a long shot, but in the process she feels they’ve learned a lot. Dr. Bohrer agreed, noting even talking about it has made a difference.

Van Overbeke has donated considerable time to prepare the grant application, and the board acknowledged appreciation for her effort.

Other business

In other business May 19, the Re-1J board:

—approved a request from Arlan Scholl for use of the new gym for a high school girls’ basketball camp May 27 and 28.

—adopted McDougal Littell literature texts for grades 9-12 and Holt grammar series for grades 9-12, with implementation beginning with the 2009-10 school year.

An additional story can be found elsewhere in this week’s Enterprise. It details the random drug testing summary, as presented by Principal Ortner at the May 19 board meeting.