Forty teachers in Holyoke School District Re-1J were approved for the 2012-13 school year at the April 3 meeting of the Board of Education.

Earlier in the board meeting, resignations were accepted from JR/SR high language arts/drama teacher Carla Mayfield, JR/SR high vo-ag teacher Troy Mayfield and elementary resource teacher Annette Mitchell.

First-, second- and third-year probationary teachers who were approved include Nicholas Balog, Julie Beaven, Heather Bieber, Allie Billings, Maury Kramer, Christina Martinez, Karen Pieper, Kelsey Reimink, Crystal Rigel and Luke Thomas.

Shelby Lingbloom was approved as a fourth-year probationary teacher.

Nonprobationary teachers approved for 2012-13 include Mary Austin, John Baumgartner, Cindi Beavers, Yesenia Bencomo, Kimberlee Bennett, Stefan Betley, Kyle Bules, Tanisha Bules, Ashley Clayton, Marcia Dalton, Scott Dille, Kerri Gardner, Kristie Ham, Andrea Kammer.

Natalie Krogmeier, Laura Loutensock, Summer Maloney, Jenny McKenny, Desiree Mosenteen, Chandra Parker, Kristie Pelle, Angela Powell, Sandra Rahe, Kari Sandquist, Lynn Schneider, Kate Shoemaker, Rhonda Smith, Cathy Sullivan and Theresa Tharp.

Merle and Monica Powell attended Tuesday night's meeting, and Merle addressed the board as a follow-up to an e-mail he had sent each of them. He voiced support of band teacher Shauna Close and expressed the Powells' concerns for the direction the music department is headed.

Powell said it's frightening to think they could be looking at a fourth year in a row with a new band instructor. Numbers in the program have dropped in the last few years, but Powell believes it's because of the constant change. "Consistency must become evident," he added.

He indicated the improvement of the current band teacher has been apparent. He noted students did quite well in recent solo and ensemble competition. “That’s not only a tribute to what they’ve done, but to the instruction of Ms. Close.”

Powell added Close is a good option for the success of the band program and they would like to see her stay.

Close’s employment for 2012-13 was neither approved nor disapproved at last week’s meeting.

Custodians hired

Darcy Garrison and Jack Garrison were approved as full-time custodians at Holyoke Elementary during last week’s board meeting.

Darcy’s full-time employment began immediately, and Jack’s will begin April 16.

Prior to the employment vote, the board accepted the resignation of custodian Ray Sanchez, effective April 2.

Personnel procedure addressed by coach

Assistant boys’ basketball coach Aaron Sprague read a several-page letter at last week’s

school board meeting, informing the board of what he called a mishandling of his coaching suspension situation during the basketball season.

He cited where he felt the athletic director had not followed policy pertaining to the situation.

Sprague asked to meet with a subgroup of the board to share more details and also requested a written response.

Other business

In other business April 3, the Re-1J board:

—approved the submission of the Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grant.

—gave approval for performance accreditation plans for both Holyoke Elementary and Holyoke JR/SR High.

—acknowledged two Kodak video cameras which Holyoke Elementary received from the Bank of the West Donors Choose program.

—heard a thorough summary of the winter athletic sports programs from athletic director Kimberlee Bennett.

—held a 65-minute executive session for an informal superintendent evaluation conference.

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