

Four Holyoke Re-1J teaching positions filled

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Four teaching positions were filled and one resignation received by the Re-1J School Board at its June 11 meeting.

New teachers approved for 2013-14 include Tressa Arman, kindergarten; Abby Einspahr, JR/SR High math; Charles Hurst, JR/SR High business; and Nancy Miles, elementary special education.

The board accepted a resignation from Kelsey Reimink, JR/SR high science teacher. Additionally, Corey Zeiler resigned from his junior high football coaching position, and Melisa Hunter was hired for the JR/SR high special education paraprofessional position for 2013-14.

The education profession is a second career for Annan. Between 2003-11, she worked at two different preschools in the Denver area as both a head teacher and assistant. She has recently been a substitute teacher at Academy Charter School in Castle Rock.

She attended and finished her undergraduate teaching degree from Colorado Christian University in three years and will graduate with honors this month with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education.

Einspahr is an HHS graduate and earned her bachelor's degree from Concordia University in Seward, Neb. She taught middle school math in California for six years at two different Lutheran schools prior to teaching social studies this past year at Yuma Middle School.

Hurst taught business classes this past year at Revere High School in the alternative teacher licensure program. He has 30 years of previous experience in the business world in the areas of finance, retail, distribution and management and has owned his own business with over 1,500 employees in three cities in the Midwest.

He worked in the Delta County schools as a substitute teacher for five years and as an aide in an elementary special education classroom.

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Miles has served as a special education paraprofessional at Holyoke Elementary this past year and as a N.E. BOCES special education paraprofessional with Dragon's Wagon Preschool from 2010-12.

She is an HHS graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in speech communications from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1994 and will be enrolling in an alternative licensure program for special education.

Principals report

Elementary School Principal Kyle Stumpf and JR/SR High Principal Susan Ortner gave end-of-year reports last week. They included discipline and attendance data, progress on Unified Improvement Plan goals, personnel changes and other highlights.

Stumpf reported the K-6 attendance rate finalized at 94 percent for the year. He also noted that having a full-time counselor this past year was a positive thing.

Citing staff changes at the elementary school for next year, Stumpf said Arman and Cynthia Bahler will be new in the kindergarten classrooms, joining Kerri Gardner; Kari Sandquist will move to first grade with Kristie Pelle and Carly Daniel; Tara Kasdorf and Kortney Firme will be new in second grade, joining Chandra Parker; Kimberlee Bennett will teach third- and fourth-grade social studies; Miles will be new in special education; and Tancy King will fill the elementary secretary position.

He pointed out that the Title I program will change to a schoolwide program from a targeted assistance program. Additionally, there will be departmentalizing in the third-fourth- and fifth-sixth-grade classes.

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Ortner reported a 95.49 percent attendance for the 2012-13 school year in grades 7-12.

Discipline data for the JR/SR High showed an increase from 79 percent in 2011-12 to 93 percent in 2012-13 of green zone students with 0-3 write-ups. However, she noted the number of refusals to serve in the academic opportunity center rose from 35 in 2011-12 to 104 this past year.

Personnel changes for 2013-14 include Clay Christensen in ag education and FFA; Josh Rahe, JR/SR High English; Abby Einspahr, JR/SR High math; Chuck Hurst, JR/SR High business and FBLA; and Melisa Hunter, special education one-on-one aide.

Random drug testing reported for semester

Superintendent Bret Miles reported on the audit and Principal Ortner on the results of the second semester of random drug testing at Holyoke JR/SR High.

Miles said the audit showed that policies and procedures for the program are being followed. All samples had accurate numbers and the appropriate paperwork.

One discrepancy was found in the use of the new drug testing form from the vendor, Centennial Mental Health. When a substitute tester was in charge, student signatures were not obtained on all forms. However, all forms were present and matched the lab reports. Miles said they've contacted CMH, and they expect this to be resolved for the fall.

Ortner's report indicated 230 students were enrolled in random drug testing as of May 24, which is 92 percent of the total 249 in grades 7-12.

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Fifty-eight students were tested once during the past semester, seven were tested twice and one was tested three times for a total of 75 tests. There was one dilute test and one positive test for THC in the semester report.

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Spring athletics reported

Athletic director Sandra Rahe reported on the spring sports season, outlining number of participants, records and season highlights for each sport.

For 2013-14, she said they will be treating cheerleading as a sport, so participants will need to make a choice. There will be a fall season which will be involved in competitions and a winter season which will cheer for the sports teams.

There will be a no-cut policy, so if numbers are high there could be a varsity/junior varsity division.

Policies introduced

Miles introduced four policies at last week's meeting, all of which were scheduled to be on the June 18 agenda for first reading approval.

Policy ECA/ECAB-R involves a regulation to a policy on access to buildings and outlines procedures for issuing keys. Policy GBEC refers to an alcohol and drug-free workplace and the suggested revisions came from the School Board Association.

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Staff use of facilities is the topic of Policy GBED. The suggested revision would put into policy the current practice of letting staff members use the school outside of work time.

Policy IHBG on home schooling involves a proposal to work with home school students who wish to receive some services from the school district.

Other business

In other business June 11, the Re-1J board:

—approved Dorothy Drake, Amy Deaver, Cody Lamm and Jack Gorwitz for the summer paint crew; Camille Elliott, summer mowing; and John Zilla, summer help in supervising the weight room and maintenance.

—set a summer board retreat for Tuesday, July 2 at 5 p.m. There will not be a regular board meeting that night.

—hired Lauer, Szabo & Associates to conduct the 2012-13 district audit.

—approved first reading of revisions to the grading scale policy.

—reviewed changes for the JR/SR High student handbook for 2013-14 as presented by Principal Ortner. There were 16 minor changes, with no significant changes to the daily expectations for students.

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—reviewed the preliminary budget for 2013-14. The major change is the recommendation to use \$150,000 instead of \$200,000 out of the reserve as revenue.

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