

Kral resigns; Elementary school principal sought

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Holyoke Elementary School Principal Jennifer Kral resigned July 21, accepting a position as principal at Beaver Valley Elementary in Brush.

Supt. Bret Miles said Kral was very up-front with him, telling him about job applications she made and when she would be notified whether she was selected.

As a result, he was aware of the potential resignation and was able to immediately advertise her Holyoke position when she was hired in Brush.

While her resignation was effective immediately, she stayed through Friday to wrap things up. Miles said he met with Kral Thursday for a check-out meeting, where they went over schedules, class lists and more.

Moving swiftly, but carefully, Miles met with elementary school staff members Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning for about an hour each time. He asked for input on what they hope to find in a new principal, strengths of the school and other areas of interest.

Miles said this proved helpful in pointing him in a direction for talents and backgrounds he needs to look for in a new principal for the district.

When hiring a new principal, Miles said it is his general preference to use different levels of involvement from the staff, doing lots of work together up-front. However, with school scheduled to start in less than a month, he opted to schedule the staff meetings and use their input for helping him narrow the search.

He feels several suggestions were quite valuable in helping him target who to interview for the open position.

He had four interviews with candidates scheduled last Friday, one Monday morning and a phone interview set for Wednesday, July 29.

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Friday he indicated he would run with those six candidates at this point, but will keep options open at least through his July 29 interview.

He has been able to rely on a network of people to get some of these candidates. His acquaintance with fellow administrators and staff in Northeast Colorado was a huge help in guiding him to potentially interested principal candidates.

Miles said he hopes to have a recommendation at the Aug. 4 board meeting.

With leadership team and new teachers set to start Wednesday, Aug. 12 and the whole staff Aug. 13, Miles acknowledges the timelines are tight.

He's optimistic about the solution, but said the district will probably need to be supportive of a transition time for the person selected as the new principal.