

Personnel issues being addressed at SSISD

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
Tuesday, 29 April 2014 12:04

April is what some administrators call the “hot” time at school, that period in which schools vie for the best candidates to fill staff openings for the upcoming school year. To that end, Sulphur Springs Independent School District administrators have been busy all month vetting applications and interviewing top candidates for positions vacant due to retirements and resignations — the usual shifts and changes announced at this time of year.

They then recommended their top choices to the school board; trustees during executive session at two board meetings this month accepted more than a dozen resignations, and approved at least half a dozen personnel changes and more than a dozen new hires, according to the meeting minutes from both the April 15 and April 25 school board meetings.

At the regular board meeting, the board approved agriculture teacher Dan Froneberger to fill the position of maintenance and grounds director for the district; he will be assuming the duties of Dale Guest, who earlier this year announced he will be retiring. Froneberger will be relocating to the SSISD Administration Building this summer.

Shawn Sinclair will be moving from his post as assistant principal at Sulphur Springs Middle School to serve as assistant principal at Austin Academic Center. James Cartwright was approved to take Sinclair’s place as assistant principal at SSMS.

Also at Austin, James Evans will be resigning his post with the Alternative Education program at the end of the year, while Dana Self has been reassigned from Austin Academic Center to Sulphur Springs Elementary School to serve as a campus police officer. Self formerly was an aide at Austin; she assumed her new position immediately upon notification following the April 25 board meeting.

Nathan Gaddis submitted his resignation, which the school board accepted at the April 14 meeting. Gaddis soon after officially being hired as a full-time police officer for SSISD-PD, assigned to Sulphur Springs High School, was arrested in January following allegations of sex offenses involving a child. Gaddis’ case is still pending, according to the district attorney’s office.

Belinda Brown is resigning as family and consumer sciences teacher at SSHS; her letter was accepted April 14. Christina Davis is being reassigned as FCS teacher at SSHS next year; she is currently serving as a physical education aide at Douglas Intermediate School.

Jeffrey Denton will step up from aide to teacher of special education at SSMS next year, while Courtney Singleton steps up from special ed aide to teacher at SSHS next year. Also in the special education department, Mary Tunage resigned her position at SSMS and Heather Bolt resigned her post at SSES. Elvia Zuniga was approved as the new special education records clerk at the Special Services office. Kathleen Trammel and Stephanie Bronson were approved as special education teachers for SSHS. Also at SSES, Brillie Nash resigned as Title 1 aide.

Maria Rivera will be switching classes next year, moving from bilingual education at Douglas Intermediate to first grade bilingual ed at Travis Primary. Jeananne Amaya also resigned her post in bilingual education at Douglas Intermediate. Approved to serve as academic specialist at Douglas was Julie Silman.

The district is losing SSMS math teacher Nikka Horschig, SSHS history teacher and coach Justin Horschig, SSHS English teacher and coach Michele Namanny and SSHS physical

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education teacher and head tennis coach Randal Namanny. All are moving to other districts.

Daniel Johnson was approved to teach math and coach at SSMS next year. Also approved to teach at SSMS were Lisa Anderson, Morgan Lampp and Kyle Smith. Anderson will teach eighth grade science, Lamp math and Smith eighth grade social studies. Also resigning from SSMS is assistant band director Robert McDaniel.

Approved to work at SSHS next year were Jerri Lane and Jennifer Carter. Lane will teach English and Carter replaces MaryLou Foster, who is retiring as SSHS nurse at the end of the school year. Also resigning at SSHS as of the end of the year are biology teacher Michael Perry and math teacher Kayla Gentry.

Laci Ragan was approved to teach second grade at Lamar Primary, a position currently held by Kay McMeans, who is retiring at the end of the school year.