

Ripon Area School District

**Press Release
November 20, 2008**

For Immediate Release

School Board Approves Administrative Restructuring Plan

The Ripon Board of Education has approved an administrative restructuring plan that reassigns some current personnel effective with the 2009-10 school year. After a fifteen year absence from the school district, the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment is being returned to provide full-time leadership on a wide variety of instructional issues dealing with student learning. The duties have been dispersed to various administrators and teachers in the past decade and a half which has resulted in a lack of coordination, focus, and effectiveness. The new position will be funded by transferring the resources previously allocated to the middle school assistant principal position and other stipends associated with curriculum duties.

Effective July 1, 2009, Ms. Melanie Oppor, current principal of Ripon Middle School, will assume the new position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. She already has expertise and experience in this area since she has served as the District Assessment Coordinator for many years as the responsibilities grew under the No Child Left Behind Act. Ms. Oppor is currently completing a doctoral program which focuses on equity issues for students who have historically been underserved by traditional curriculum and instruction.

An extensive search process will be conducted for a new middle school principal. The search timeline calls for a hiring decision to be made at the March 16, 2009 school board meeting. Staff and parents will be involved in developing a profile of characteristics that best describe the ideal candidate. The middle school principal and a full-time school counselor will provide a whole child approach for the approximately 400 students enrolled in grades 6-8 at the school. Since the new principal will not have the district-wide duties that currently consume so much time, this year's temporary dean of students position will no longer be needed; the dean of students position was developed when the previous assistant principal left the district in mid-summer after the hiring season was over. Other building administrators will also be able to devote all their time and energy to their buildings as the curriculum-related duties are placed in a single administrator's hands.

"This is a win-win for our district," commented Dr. Richard Zimman, Ripon superintendent of schools. "Without spending more money, we've just provided our staff with a full-time expert to devote to our student learning mission. In addition, we gave each building more time from their principal who can now focus on their school. Any time the district gets more bang for its buck, our students benefit from the increased focus on student learning."

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