May 8, 2019

Administrative Announcements

Lawrence High School principal Matt Brungardt recently announced his resignation, effective June 30, 2019, and pending Lawrence Board of Education approval. He has accepted the principal position with his alma mater, Salina Central High. This is his 16th year at LHS, ten years as principal and six years as associate principal.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Lawrence High School, and I am proud of so many of our accomplishments together,” said Dr. Brungardt. “There are not many schools I would leave Lawrence High School for; this just happens to be one.”

Dr. Brungardt shared that the timing is right for a move because his youngest son, Ross, will graduate this month from LHS. The Brungardt family is well established in Salina. Dr. Brungardt’s father, Pete, served as mayor and in the Kansas Senate.

In addition to Dr. Brungardt’s legacy as LHS principal, his wife, Courtney’s, grandfather, R. Wayne Nelson, also left his mark on the school. Nelson composed Lawrence High’s alma mater and founded its A Capella Choir and “Showtime” variety show. Nelson served as director of choral music at LHS from 1948-1966 and director of cultural and fine arts for the district from 1966-1976.

“We appreciate Dr. Brungardt’s service to LHS and to our leadership team,” said Superintendent Anthony Lewis. “It’s a rare opportunity to lead one’s own high school. I wish Matt the best as he returns to his hometown.”

LHS Interim Principal

Dr. Lewis announces the appointment of Cynthia Johnson as interim principal of LHS, effective July 1 and pending board approval. “Since it’s late in the educational hiring season, this interim appointment will give the district time to fully engage the Lawrence High school community in a thorough principal search,” he said.

An independent national educational consultant since 1993, Dr. Johnson has served 30+ years as a high school speech, forensics, and special education teacher; middle/high school principal, elementary principal leadership coach, and district-level project leader in Missouri, including in Kansas City, Grandview, Sedalia, Blue Springs, and Raytown.

She has facilitated professional development in more than 40 states and for the Association of Middle Level Education and National Association of Secondary School Principals. Her workshops focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, culturally responsive teaching, social-emotional learning, school connectedness, youth and family empowerment, and trauma-informed schools. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Central Missouri State University and her doctorate at Baker University.
Dr. Lewis invited Dr. Johnson for a tour of LHS on May 1. “She had so much fun, she stayed for most of the day!” he said.

“I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Lawrence High School. I loved talking with students and getting a chance to meet a few LHS team members. I took a photo with the Student Services Team as part of a scavenger hunt,” said Dr. Johnson. “My visit included attending the Adaptive P.E. Triathlon. It was a thrill to watch scholars strive and reach success in multiple activities. A huge shout-out goes to the organizers, Jayme Savage and Brad Stoll, other special education team members, and community sponsors who supported this outstanding event. I am looking forward to this annual activity in honor of Pat Grzenda in the spring of 2020.”

“I am excited about joining the Lawrence High School Chesty Lion team and look forward to connecting with students, staff, parents, and the Lawrence community. Together, we can build upon a legacy of success at LHS and ensure each student is fully equipped for college, career, and life,” she added.

LHS Assistant Principal

In addition, Dr. Lewis announces Quentin Rials as LHS assistant principal, effective July 1 and pending board approval. The superintendent appointed Rials as interim assistant principal last November, after a personnel change at LHS. Rials was serving his second year as a learning coach at West Middle School at that time.

“I have heard positive feedback from staff, students, and parents about Quentin’s transition to LHS this year,” said Lewis. “His instructional coaching experience enables him to support the continuous development of our professional teaching staff. He also understands the critical importance of building strong relationships with students and families. I’m pleased that he will continue to be a part of our leadership team at LHS.”

Prior to joining the district, Rials served as a middle school math teacher and coach in Fort Worth, Texas. Teaching is his second career after working as an attorney for six years in private practice, both on behalf of a multi-national corporation and for the state of Kansas. An alumnus of LHS, Rials earned a bachelor’s degree at Baker University, his juris doctorate at Washburn University, and his master’s at the University of Kansas, where he is currently a doctoral candidate.

“What I enjoy the most about working at Lawrence High School are the relationships that I have built with students, staff, and administration. I have never worked with a more dedicated group of educators, and I am looking forward to working together to achieve our shared goals of getting our students ready to experience success in any college or career that they may choose,” said Rials.

Meet-and-Greet Receptions with Dr. Johnson

The district invites LHS staff to meet Dr. Johnson from 3:30-4:00 p.m. May 16 in the LHS library. Community members may visit with her during a public reception from 4:00-5:30 p.m. May 16 in the school cafeteria.

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