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Updated: Aug 03, 2005 - 10:40:22 am CDT

Administration staff now set for DeKalb schools

By Aracely Hernandez - Staff Writer

DeKALB - The DeKalb School District's administration team is complete.

The school board on Tuesday approved new hires for the final four open administrative positions in the district. Three of the positions are at the high school.

High school principal Lindsey Hall was hired earlier this summer, and there were three administrative openings at the school - an assistant principal, a dean of students and an athletics and activities director.

But Hall decided students would be served better if more than one person oversaw discipline and attendance issues. That was previously the job of the dean of students. She changed the title of dean to assistant principal. Now the district will have three assistant principals. The two new ones will divide the discipline issues between them.

John Hahn and Valerie Bilek were both named assistant principals.

Hahn is an athletic director and art teacher at Indian Prairie School District, which serves Aurora, Naperville and Bolingbrook. His salary will be \$72,000, plus benefits.

Bilek has served as assistant principal for J. Sterling Morton High School's East Campus in Cicero for four years. Her salary will be \$78,000, plus benefits.

Head football coach Dan Jones will take on an administrative position as athletics and activities director. Jones has served as the head football coach for three seasons. He said he will keep his post as head football coach.

Jones has worked for the district for 15 years. He has served as a physical education teacher and a science teacher at both Huntley Middle School and DeKalb High School.

His salary will be \$75,000, plus benefits.

Hall said she is excited to have all of the new administrative staff on board. After starting her job a month ago, she spent a lot of time interviewing candidates.

"We're done," she said.

Also hired was a new principal for Littlejohn Elementary School. Charlotte Kreuder comes from Freeport where she was a principal at an elementary school. Her salary will be \$81,000, plus benefits.

This summer the school district has named a total of seven new building principals. In addition to

Hall and Kreuder, principals were named for Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary, Tyler Elementary, Wright Elementary, Clinton Rosette Middle School and Huntley.

Earlier this year, school board President Andy Small said there was no one reason for all of the administrators leaving, but said it showed the district had quality employees who were courted by other school districts. Last month, the board approved a 3.8 percent raise for administrators who stayed with the district.

School board members had said they wanted all positions filled by the beginning of the school year. Small said he was happy the district met the goal.

"We didn't just fill the positions," Small said. "We have great-quality staff. We're very proud of the people that are going to join District 428."

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