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## Half of DeKalb schools' principals leaving Board president says exodus a sign district is good training ground

By Aracely Hernandez - Staff Writer

DeKALB - Half of the DeKalb School District's 12 schools will see the departure of their principals at the end of this school year. The board also must replace two districtwide administrators, among others.

School board President Andy Small said the exodus is not a sign of problems within the district, but rather shows that it is a good training ground for administrators who later take the option of moving on to other jobs.

He said the board's goal is to have all of the open positions filled by the beginning of the school year.

Small said a new principal at the high school would be hired before there would be any final decision made on hiring an athletic director and a dean of students. The two people who previously held those positions, Gail Wronski and Art Rohlman, respectively, were involuntarily reassigned for undisclosed reasons on May 17. Rohlman has since taken a job in the Elgin School District.

"We've had some good closed discussions on that," Small said about hiring a new high school principal and the two administrators. "A formal timeline (regarding the hirings) has not been set."

He said new coaches for boys' and girls' varsity basketball at DHS will be named soon - likely at the board's next meeting on June 7.

Mark Sykes, head coach for the girls' varsity basketball program, stepped down in February. Chuck Schramm, head coach for the boys' varsity basketball program, resigned in March, citing advice from his doctor.

At a recent school board meeting, a parent said basketball players were falling behind in practice time because coaches haven't been named yet.

The school board has already named a principal for Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary School. The current principal, Mary Haddad, will retire this summer. In April, the board hired Dennis Martin Owen, the principal of P.H. Miller School in Plano, as a replacement.

The board also hired Kristina Astrid Hesbol, a former University of Illinois professor in educational organization and leadership, to replace Jed Dunbar, assistant superintendent for human resources. He also is retiring.

Greg Romanek will serve as interim principal at Tyler Elementary School for the next year. He

currently is the district director of student services, overseeing special education, counseling and nursing services at the schools. Dunbar said the district will be searching for someone to take that position.

Dunbar said the district this week is interviewing candidates to replace Wright Elementary School principal Scott Kubelka. Kubelka served as the school's principal for a year after working as principal at Tyler. Small said Kubelka is taking a position elsewhere.

Huntley Middle School principal Kathryn Kapchinske's resignation was made official at the May 17 board meeting.

Clinton Rosette Middle School principal Sheila Conrad and assistant principal Mike Moan also have turned in their resignations. Their positions were posted on the district's employment Web site on Wednesday.

Kubelka did not return a phone call for comment this week, and Kapchinske and Conrad were not available for comment this morning.

At the high school, principal Larry Stinson announced in April that he would be taking advantage of an early-retirement option that the state could eliminate after this year.

The controversial reassignments of Wronski and Rohlman came after weeks of public outcry against the moves. Both positions are posted as open on the district's Web site.

Dunbar said the district employees' choices for leaving vary and include spouses being transferred to other areas or other opportunities coming along.

"It's one of those situations where everything hits at the same time ... No rhyme or reason," Small said.

Aracely Hernandez can be reached at [ahernandez@pulitzer.net](mailto:ahernandez@pulitzer.net).