

# RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

1370 Northumberland Drive • St. Louis, MO 63137  
Office: 314.869.2505 • Fax: 314.388.6003 • www.rgsd.k12.mo.us



NEWS RELEASE

July 19, 2010

**Clive Coleman, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent  
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## **RGSD Announces New Administrative Team for 2010-11 School Year**

The Riverview Gardens has opened the 2010-11 school year with new administrative leadership and new governance under the state-appointed Special Administrative Board (SAB). Superintendent Clive Coleman, whose contract was ratified by the new board on July 1, leads a team of Central Office administrators and principals who were approved by the SAB on July 13.

### **Central Office Administrators**

#### **Executive Director of Student Services: Darlynn Bosley**

Ms. Bosley has served as RGSD's Executive Director of Elementary Education from 2006 through June, 2010. Prior to her position in Riverview Gardens, she served years in St. Louis Public Schools as a teacher, instructional coach and elementary school principal. She earned a bachelor's in special education, and a master's in early childhood education and additional coursework for administrative certification from St. Louis University. She currently is working on a doctorate in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

#### **Director of Fine Arts: Jason Brown**

Mr. Brown has served as principal of Lewis and Clark Elementary from 2006 through June 2010. He began his career in 1997 as a music educator in St. Louis Public Schools. Since then, his career has included being an elementary, middle and high school vocal music and band teacher. In addition, he served as a literacy facilitator in St. Louis Public Schools and as an assistant principal in Montgomery County Public Schools in Virginia. He earned a bachelor's in music education from Eastern Illinois University, a master's in education administration from St. Louis University and is currently working on a doctorate in education administration from Lindenwood University.

#### **School Finance Consultant/Interim Chief Financial Officer: Paul Fedchak**

Mr. Fedchak has extensive experience in directing and managing the business operations of school districts. He earned a bachelor's from the University of Missouri at St. Louis and a master's in business administration from Maryville University.

#### **Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Patricia Y. Johnson**

Ms. Johnson joins RGSD from Ritenour School District, where she served last year as the facilitator of curriculum and instruction. Prior to that position, she worked for four years for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a regional MAP facilitator. She started her career in 1996 as a math teacher in the Pattonville School District. She earned a bachelor's in education from University of Missouri at St. Louis, a bachelor's in business administration from University of Missouri at Columbia and a master's in teaching from Webster University.

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ADD ONE/RGSD ADMINISTRATORS



## **Director of Alternative Education: Staci Price**

Ms. Price was the principal last year at Glasgow Elementary and had previously served in RGSD as a hearing officer, instructional coach and math coach. Her 19-year career also includes being a teacher in the University City School District, a teacher and instructional coach in the Normandy School District and a principal in the Hazelwood School District. She holds a bachelor's in elementary/middle school education from Harris-Stowe University, and a master's in educational administration and an educational specialist degree from University of Missouri at St. Louis.

## **Acting Director of Federal Programs: Joycelyn Pugh**

Ms. Pugh has been with RGSD since 1999 as a teacher at Moline Elementary, a teaching and learning coach and as a district instructional facilitator. She began her career in 1996 as a teacher in the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District. She holds a bachelor's in special education and master's in elementary education from University of Missouri at St. Louis and a master's in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

## **Director of Assessment: Sherri Sampson**

Ms. Sampson most recently was a regional instructional facilitator for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She began her career as a teacher in Hillsboro County, Fla. in 1997 and then moved to the St. Louis area, where she taught in the Parkway School District and was named a STAR teacher. She holds a bachelor's in elementary education from University of Tampa and a master's in elementary administration from Lindenwood University. She also has earned National Board Certification in middle school generalist.

## **Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources: Ann Seeney**

Ms. Seeney comes to RGSD from Goodwill Industries International as a Human Resources consultant in Rockville, Md. Prior to that position, she worked for a human resources consulting firm in Columbia, Md., and with other non-profit industries. She earned a bachelor's in mass communications from Hampton University and a master's in business administration from University of Maryland - University College. She also has earned formal certification in Human Resources.

## **Director of Technology: Steve Sotir**

Mr. Sotir has been in RGSD since 1986, when he began his career as a teacher at Lewis and Clark Elementary. After serving in several positions in the field of technology, he was named interim director of technology in 2007 and then was named to that permanent position in 2008. He holds a bachelor's in elementary education from University of Missouri at St. Louis and a master's in educational technology from Webster University.

## **Turnaround Specialist: Tamara Sunkett**

Ms. Sunkett comes to RGSD from the Madison School District in Illinois, where she served as the high school principal. Her 16-year career in education also includes being a secondary language arts teacher and instructional coordinator in the Riverview Gardens School District, a teacher in the Webster Groves School District, and a middle school and

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## *ADD TWO/RGSD ADMINISTRATORS*

elementary school principal in the Edwardsville (Ill.) School District. She holds a bachelor's in English, language and linguistics from San Jose State University in California, a secondary teaching certificate in language arts from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a master's in education administration from University of Missouri at St. Louis.

### **Principals of Schools**

#### **Early Childhood Education Center and Parents As Teachers: Christine Kulla-Branz, Director**

Ms. Kulla-Branz has been with RGHS since 1988, when she joined as a parent educator. Since then, she has served as a trainer for the National Parents As Teachers program, the coordinator of RGSD's PAT program, and since 2002 as the Director of Early Childhood Education Center and Parents As Teachers. She holds a bachelor's in child studies with certifications in early childhood education, elementary education and special education from Webster University and a master's in social work from Washington University.

#### **Danforth Elementary: Nona Greenlee**

Dr. Greenlee was most recently the principal of Highland Elementary. She first joined Highland in 1996 as a reading specialist and then became an instructional guide until she was named principal in 2006. Prior to her tenure at Highland, she was a teacher for eight years in St. Louis Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's in early childhood education with certification in early childhood and elementary education from University of Missouri at St. Louis, a master's in teaching with an emphasis in communications and reading from Webster University and a doctorate in educational leadership from St. Louis University.

#### **Gibson Elementary: Germaine Stewart**

Ms. Stewart joined RGSD in 1996. She taught English at Riverview Gardens High School and communication arts at Central Middle School. She has served as a school improvement facilitator, an instructional guide, a teaching and learning coach, and as a district instructional facilitator. She earned a bachelor's in English from Truman State University, a master's in elementary education from University of Missouri at St. Louis and an educational specialist degree in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

#### **Glasgow Elementary: Rachelle Rico**

Dr. Rico comes to Glasgow from Confluence Academy in St. Louis, where she served as a literacy coach. She started her career in education as a teacher in the Normandy School District in 1991, and has since served as a K-8 principal in Venice, Ill. and as a K-2 principal in Winfield, Mo. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education, and a master's and doctorate in educational administration from University of Missouri at St. Louis.

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ADD THREE/RGSD ADMINISTRATORS



## Highland Elementary: Cheri Gaston

Ms. Gaston was principal at Gibson Elementary for the last three years. She also has served in RGSD as an assistant principal at Moline Elementary for a year and as an instructional guide for seven years. She was a speech and language pathologist with Special School District for 15 years. She earned a bachelor's and master's in speech and language pathology and certification in elementary education and educational administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

## Koch Elementary: Stephanie Small

Ms. Small comes to RGSD from Northview Middle School in Jennings, where she served as an assistant principal. Her 21 years in education also include being a middle school math teacher in St. Louis Public Schools and the Pattonville School District, an at-risk teacher in Pattonville's alternative school, and a counselor and director of Parents As Teachers, Early Childhood Education and After-School Programs in the Jennings School District. She earned a bachelor's in education from Harris-Stowe University, a master's in educational processes from Maryville University, and a master's in school and professional counseling and master's in educational administration from Lindenwood University. She currently is finishing a doctorate in education administration from Lindenwood.

## Lemasters Elementary: Stacey Nichols

Dr. Nichols has been the principal of Danforth Elementary for the last four years. Her career also includes teaching in St. Louis Public Schools and RGSD, and being an assistant principal and principal for an elementary school in St. Louis. She also is a professor of educational leadership at Lindenwood University. She earned a bachelor's in elementary and middle school education from Harris-Stowe University, a master's in educational leadership from University of Missouri at St. Louis and a doctorate in educational administration from St. Louis University.

## Lewis & Clark Elementary: Jeannie Roberts

Dr. Roberts has been the communication arts coordinator for RGSD for the past two years. Her 21-year career in education also includes 10 years in special education and nine years in the Ferguson-Florissant School District as a Reading First coach, a reading specialist and as a Reading Recovery teacher. She earned a bachelor's in special education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and a master's in both education and educational administration and a doctorate in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

## Meadows Elementary: Holly Redman

Ms. Redman comes to Meadows from her position as principal of Wright City Middle School. Her career includes teaching in Special School District and the Ft. Zumwalt School District, as well as being the principal of an elementary school in the Mesa Valley School District in Colorado. She has been an adjunct professor at Lindenwood University, teaching public education courses. She earned a bachelor's in special education and three master's degrees in special education, general education and educational administration, all from Lindenwood University.

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### **Moline Elementary: Chaketa Riddle**

Chaketa Riddle comes to Moline after serving as Central Middle School's principal for the last three years. She started her career at Central as a teacher's assistant in special education in 1997, then as a special education teacher for five years before becoming assistant principal, interim principal and head principal. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Harris-Stowe University and a master's in educational administration from Lindenwood University. She currently is working on an educational specialist degree from Webster University.

### **Central Middle: Robert Mitchell, Principal; Jeff Cook, Associate Principal**

Dr. Mitchell was most recently RGSD's coordinator of secondary education. He has served in the district for 19 years as a teacher, an assistant principal at the original Highland Sixth Grade Center, the principal of Lewis and Clark Elementary and the coordinator of special programs. Prior to his tenure in RGSD, he taught in St. Louis Public Schools. He earned a bachelor's in physical education and health science from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and a master's, specialist and doctorate degrees in educational administration from St. Louis University.

Mr. Cook was most recently the principal of Koch Elementary. Prior to that position, he served six years as assistant principal at Central and 11 years as a teacher in the Ft. Zumwalt School District. He earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Western Illinois University and a master's in educational administration and an education specialist certificate from Lindenwood University.

### **Westview Middle: Valeska Hill**

Ms. Hill comes to RGSD after serving as principal of Harris Accelerated Elementary and Madison Early Childhood Program in the Madison (Ill.) School District since 2007. Her 16-year career in education also includes being a special education teacher at Wirth Middle School and Cahokia High School in Illinois, an assistant principal and athletic director in the Collinsville (Ill.) School District, the special education coordinator in the Edwardsville (Ill.) School District, an elementary principal in the Cahokia School District and a special education administrator in the Mehlville School District. She holds bachelor's in special education and master's in education administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

### **Riverview Gardens High**

Appointment Pending

As a result of the lapse of the district on June 30, contracts with all employees and vendors ended. The district had the monumental task of hiring **all** employees – support staff, certified staff and administrators. More than 400 internal candidates and 2,300 external applicants have applied for 450 instructional positions in the district.

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