

New hires, assignments made in Monett school staff

Six resign, five
hired to fill
teaching vacancies

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The Monett school board has hired additional staff for the coming year and approved extra duty assignments and reassignments.

Board members accepted resignations from Betsy Anderson, culinary arts teacher at the Scott Regional Technology Center; McKenzie Moreland, special education teacher at Monett Elementary; Emily Hanson, first grade, and Aubrey Thomas, second grade, both at Monett Elementary; and Melissa Duncan, math teacher at the middle school. Kim McCracken retired for the second time, vacating her post as Missouri Options teacher at Scott Tech.

New teachers hired included:

- Jeff Charles, special education teacher at Monett Elementary, coming to Monett from Pierce City.

- Coy Dalton, succeeding retiring Geneva Blue to head the Work Experience program at Scott Tech. Dalton worked at Cassville as

an administrator and most recently has served as principal at the high school in Archie.

- Michele Mercano, as a high school special education teacher. A first-year instructor, Mercano leaves the private sector having completed an online degree from Western Governor's University and doing student teaching in Monett.

- Katherine Jones, as a first grade teacher at Monett Elementary, after teaching at the Dr. Ralph H. Baker 21st Century Learning Center in Victorville, Calif.

- Josh Kleine, as the varsity girls basketball coach, and physical education teacher for grades three through six, coming to Monett from the Miller school district.

In transfers, Ralph Meredith moves from the maintenance department to be the new food service director. Meredith has an associate's degree in hotel and restaurant management and has experience managing restaurants.

Drew Williams, who had worked as a paraprofessional at Monett Elementary, will become the new high school social studies teacher. He is a Purdy resident and did his student teaching in Monett last fall.

Superintendent Russ Moreland said he was "very happy" with the turnover rate among the faculty this year, and felt the district was well positioned for filling the remaining vacancies.

Extra duty assignments for the coming year were approved. In addition to coaching assignments April Smith and Garrett Maxey as assistants in the speech/debate/drama department. Lacey Willis will be the new Student Council sponsor. Anessa Garner will be the new SkillsUSA sponsor. Taking on counseling duties will be Jessica Deffendall at Central Park Elementary. Nicole Coffey at Monett Intermediate, and Jordan Williams at both the intermediate and middle school campuses.

Brennan Cook and Garrett Spencer, instructors in the JROTC program at Scott Tech, were also tabbed to receive a stipend for their work. Superintendent Russ Moreland said these were new stipends due to the number of activities added in recent years, matching those of other JROTC programs.

Heather Romaine and Kayla Roderman were approached to have stipends as instructional coaches.

Positions not yet filled include sponsors for Odyssey of the Mind and the National Honor Society, plus an additional instructor for the high school band's color guard or drum line.

