

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD announces administrative changes for 2010-11 school year

With the new year comes several new administrative positions and changes in Comal ISD, which will take place starting with the 2010-11 school year.

Current Spring Branch Middle School principal Tammy Lind will be leaving the school to become the district's first Director of Staff Development and Accountability. Lind said she is excited about the new opportunity.

"Accountability and staff development are the cornerstone for a great school district," she said. "I hope to use my 12 years of experience as a campus-based administrator to help others raise the performance of all CISD staff and students."

The position is new to the district, and Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services Dr. Jodi Duron said there was great need to create this position.

"Essentially, staff development needs to mirror our student needs," Duron said. "Coordinating this effort is a monumental task, which requires a great deal of skill and attention. I am confident Tammy is the right person to lead this effort in order to address our specific areas of need and will create the immediate change we need to see."

In her new role, Lind will assist in the orientation of new employees, plan and develop leadership seminars for administrators and professional staff, and coordinate professional development training based on targeted curriculum needs. Lind will also supervise the development, organization and delivery of personal and professional training opportunities for professional employees at the campus level.

In addition, Lind will absorb the accountability responsibilities from the district's current Director of Accountability and Instructional Services Sandra Shelton, who will take the lead as the district's Executive Director of Technology—Instructional and Hardware next school year.

“Tying the accountability component to our staff development is a natural fit,” said Duron. “Just as we use student data to inform instruction in the classroom, we should also use data to direct and inform our professional development for our teachers and staff.”

Lind said she hopes to serve as the link between individual campuses and district personnel to ensure staff development is relevant and impacts the overall performance of students.

“I will work with campuses and district leadership teams to unravel and disaggregate the information from the district’s accountability results to create staff development plans for individual campuses as well as overall district goals and objectives,” said Lind.

Lind joined the Comal ISD team in 1996 as a fifth grade teacher at the former Arlon Seay Intermediate School. Before taking the lead position at Spring Branch Middle, Lind served as both the assistant principal and principal at Arlon Seay. Lind began her career as an educator in 1984 and worked with several other school districts at the elementary level before coming to Comal ISD.

As Executive Director of Technology—Instructional and Hardware, Shelton will work to improve how hardware and accessibility impacts instruction.

“I am very excited about this position,” said Shelton. “With my curriculum background, this will be a great opportunity to merge hardware and instruction into one cohesive department. I look forward to attending more professional conferences that promote best practices that will help me in strategic planning for our district.”

Shelton began her career as an educator in 1989 in Bay City ISD as an elementary and special education teacher. In 1993, Shelton went to work for Lake Travis ISD as an elementary teacher before joining the Comal ISD team in 1994 as an elementary and gifted and talented teacher at the former Goodwin Primary School. Shelton began serving the district as an instructional technologist in 2000 before becoming the Instructional Technology Coordinator in 2005 and then Director of Accountability and Instructional Services in 2007.

Taking Lind’s place as Spring Branch Middle’s principal will be Smithson Valley High assistant principal Chris Smith.

Smith began his educational career with New Braunfels ISD in 1996 as a teacher for three years. In 2000, Smith began his path to becoming an administrator first as a secondary curriculum facilitator in Keller ISD and then as an assistant principal for four years in 2001 before joining Comal ISD in 2005.

“I’m absolutely thrilled about taking on the roles and responsibilities as principal at Spring Branch Middle,” Smith said. “I realize this school is already a wonderful place for students and teachers. I hope to continue this tradition and will support teachers, students and community members in making sure it is a great place for kids.”

Another administrative change in Comal ISD is current Church Hill Middle School principal Dani Baylor will take on the role as the district’s Director of Secondary Education, and Baylor said she is excited to have this opportunity.

“High school graduation and college readiness is the ultimate goal for Comal ISD students,” she said. “Each school year brings new requirements and challenges to the middle schools and high schools. I think it is critical to have a person in this position to provide support to campus administrators and coordinate all phases of the district’s secondary programs.”

Baylor’s responsibilities will include assisting secondary principals in planning and administering the instructional program, assisting secondary personnel in initiating and implementing new programs, and to provide leadership for programs and projects involving secondary instructional programs as well as direct, monitor and evaluate curriculum studies and special projects.

“We believe we need to redirect our focus to our secondary schools and particularly our high schools,” said Duron. “We believe that holding students and staff to high standards and expectations for teaching and learning requires a support system to be in place to achieve our desired results. This position will serve as a support to our secondary instructional programs and will also have oversight to ensure accountability at all levels within the secondary structure.”

Baylor said she looks forward to collaborating with secondary principals and curriculum staff in the ongoing development and improvement of the instructional programs.

“Our secondary schools are in the midst of many new initiatives and programs which will immediately require support and evaluation,” she said. “I would like to focus on coordination between curriculum and technology staff to maximize the use of technology in daily instructional practices. As an educator, my focus has always been on maximizing student opportunities and success, and I am pleased that it will continue to be so in this position.”

Baylor joined Comal ISD in 2005 first as the principal at the former Canyon Intermediate School before taking the lead position at Church Hill. She began her career

in 1989 as a middle school teacher and started her journey as an administrator in a variety of capacities in different districts in 1992.

Current Mt. Valley Middle School principal Scott Hammond will take Baylor's place as principal at Church Hill.

Hammond began his career in Copperas Cove ISD as a teacher and a coach in 1994 and became first an assistant principal of a junior high there in 2002 and then the school's principal in 2006 before moving into Comal ISD in 2008.

Hammond's wife teaches at Canyon High School and his children attend Canyon High School feeder schools, so he said this will be a good move for both he and his family.

"I'm looking forward to being more involved in the community in which I live," Hammond said. "I have enjoyed my time at Mt. Valley, and it has been a great experience for me to work with the staff, students, parents and community here. Church Hill is a new opportunity for me, and I look forward to carrying on with the school's culture of excellence and high achievement."

In order to improve student success at the high school level, a new Academic Dean position was created for each of the district's three high schools and will replace one of the high school assistant principal positions.

The high school Academic Deans will provide support and guidance to teachers in handling daily challenges of instruction and implementation of curriculum, work with the Curriculum and Instruction Department in organizing and coordinating continuity and articulation of the high school instructional program, and serve as a resource to campus teachers in the area of effective teaching and learning. They will also provide leadership, coordination and administrative support in the ongoing development, implementation and administration of all phases of the district's instructional program at the high school level.

"We need to focus our efforts on preparing students for the demands of the 21st century," said Duron. "The position of Academic Dean will allow us to focus our attention on relevant and rigorous learning opportunities for all students by evaluating effective teaching and learning strategies and serving as a coach and mentors to those identified as needing targeted assistance."

Donna Mitchell, currently an assistant principal at Canyon High School, will take on the school's Academic Dean position. Mitchell joined Comal ISD in 1998 as a math teacher at Canyon. Canyon Lake High School's assistant principal Jon Lindholm will move into the Academic Dean position. He has worked with Comal ISD since 2007. Jan

Bettersworth, currently a science instructional specialist with the district since 2008, will take the Academic Dean position at Smithson Valley High.

Some other administrative changes that will take place at the beginning of next school year are Canyon High School assistant principals Alan Reaves and Allen Pooley will move into the assistant principal positions at Rahe Bulverde Elementary and Clear Spring Elementary, respectively. Freiheit Elementary School principal Betsy Nash will become the principal at Clear Spring.

Reaves has served as an assistant principal at Canyon since 2002, and Pooley joined Comal ISD in 1990, first as a science teacher at Smithson Valley High and then Canyon before taking the administrative position.

Nash started in Comal ISD in 2003 first as the principal at the former Frazier Elementary School and then as principal at Freiheit. She began her career in 1992 and served as a teacher and assistant principal in Judson ISD, as an assistant principal in Northside ISD and Alamo Heights ISD, as well as an adjunct employee for the Region 20 Educational Service Center.

“I’m excited that I will have the opportunity to continue on with students, parents and teachers I already know from Freiheit and Goodwin Frazier,” said Nash. “I’m also excited about the fact that Clear Spring is in part a neighborhood school where a lot of our students can walk or ride bikes to school. We are very excited to get it open and start serving our families in this new capacity.”

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