



News Release

For Immediate Release

Two assistant principals hired

January 25, 2010 – The rigorous process used to find the most experienced and talented principals to fill vacancies this summer was once again utilized to identify two new assistant principals, Springfield Schools Superintendent Alan J. Ingram has announced.

“A top priority is to find and hire the very best leaders to work in Springfield schools,” Ingram said. “Our new aggressive approach has worked in the past and we have full confidence that this process is what will allow us to fill our schools with educators of the highest quality.”

In total, 30 educators applied for assistant principal positions posted for the High School of Commerce and Chestnut Accelerated Middle School. Ingram implemented an application process that began last month.

Applicants submitted resumes, letters of intent, references and transcripts. A selection committee reviewed applications; checked all references and reviewed applicants’ attendance and evaluation records for the past three years.

A team of nine people comprised of administrators and principals of the two schools interviewed 14 candidates who completed the first stage successfully. They scored candidates based on a pre-determined set of standards.

Those candidates were then assessed on their instructional leadership performance based on their analysis of observations made during a learning walk through the school. The candidates then were asked to analyze a teacher evaluation. The applicants then submitted an improvement process plan based on that evaluation.

Based on those results, the positions were awarded to the following applicants:

Lori A. Robinson, department chairperson of foreign languages at Central High School, has been appointed assistant principal at Commerce. Robinson has worked in the district since 1996. She holds a master’s degree in Hispanic Civilization from New York University; a certificate of advanced studies in School Administration from Westfield State College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Gerald R. Saunders, instructional leadership specialist at Kiley Middle School, has been appointed assistant principal at Chestnut Accelerated Middle School. Saunders began teaching in the district in 1999. He holds a master’s degree in education and a Bachelor of Science degree in education from American International College.

Both assistant principals will begin work immediately.

