

Jones named schools chief

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By DANALINE BRYANT Messenger staff writer |

A Tomcat “through and through” is the new superintendent of Trimble Local School District.

Kim Jones, principal of Trimble Middle School, was named superintendent by the Trimble School Board during a special meeting Thursday.

Jones was one of five candidates for the job. She was the only one of the five present at Thursday’s meeting.

After an executive session of about 30 minutes, during which Jones was invited in briefly, board members returned to open session and President Rob Miller asked for a motion to hire Jones as superintendent. After members voted unanimously in favor of Jones, the audience comprised mostly of Trimble employees broke into loud applause.

Jones asked for and was given permission to address those present.

“I just want to say I am really happy to be superintendent of Trimble Local Schools,” she said. “I believe we have all the elements of a great school district — staff, board members, students and concerned community. I believe we will all pull together to move the district forward.”

After the meeting, three board members and a teacher offered comments.

“We made the choice to hire Kim Jones because she has been a part of this district all of her life,” said Rob Miller, board president. “She’s a Tomcat through and through, and we feel she has the 100-percent commitment to the district that will allow her to be a great leader. She will be what we are looking for in leadership and community relations.”

“We have a good person for our superintendent, and she’s going to do a good job. She will prevail 100 percent,” said board member Terry Holbert.

“She has the ability to galvanize the district and bring it together, and that was a very strong factor in her selection,” said board member Steve Miller.

Holbert said board member Erica North could not be present but wanted people to know she was giving Jones “100 percent support.”

“We just think this is wonderful,” said kindergarten teacher Becky Trace. “She is a wonderful person and will do a wonderful job because she cares about the students, the district and the community.”

Jones is a Trimble native who attended district schools from kindergarten through high school graduation. She attended Ohio University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, a master’s degree in teaching of the gifted, and a Ph.D. in educational administration with an emphasis on rural leadership. She taught advanced reading and mathematics at Trimble schools for 25 years before becoming middle school principal last year.

Hired as superintendent with a two-year contract and a salary of \$85,000, she will begin her duties Aug. 1.

Rob Miller said Interim Supt. John Costanzo has been asked to remain on the job to assist Jones in the transition. Jones said she was “really glad” to have the opportunity to work with Costanzo during the transition.

Jones said she was excited about her new job and looking forward to beginning that work next month.

Jones not only brings a resident’s and former student’s insight to the job but also, because of her doctoral studies, a specialized knowledge of the unique needs of a rural school.

She said while pursuing her doctorate she especially benefited from the teachings of two OU professors, Aimee and Craig Howley.

“I worked with a lot of good professors but particularly Aimee, who was my adviser,” she said. “I came to understand our situation at Trimble is not unique but rather fairly typical of small and rural circumstances. That inspired me to offer to step into leadership roles to try to impact factors influencing our district. That’s when I left the classroom and went into the principal’s role. It was difficult because I love teaching, but I felt compelled to offer my services because I am so aware of the culture and circumstance of this particular district. I think assets of a small district is often overlooked. I have an eager board, excellent teachers, concerned citizens and wonderful students — most of all wonderful students — and we’ll all pull together to move our district forward, and I’m really excited about that.”

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