



KOSKI TO LEAVE TEMPLETON SCHOOLS

From the Editor's Notebook

May 27, 2019

Templeton Unified School District (TUSD) Superintendent Joe Koski sent a letter Friday to parents and staff saying that he would not be seeking a renewal of his contract and would be leaving the District on June 30, 2019.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees (school board) on **Tuesday, May 28 at 6 pm** in the Eagle Conference & Training Center next to the District office on Old County Road.

The primary work of the Board at that meeting will be to develop an interim plan for the position of Superintendent.

The departure of Superintendent Koski makes the 3rd primary administrative change in the last few months. A new principal will start at Templeton High School in July, a new principal will be starting at Vineyard Elementary School soon, and now the school district will also need to fill the Superintendent's position or come up with a plan to cover those responsibilities almost immediately.

In addition, Templeton Middle School has a new principal that has only been in place a few months, and Templeton has lost and continues to lose top notch teachers and staff to retirement. Laura Clark, Paula Hanson, Valerie Reynolds, and Teresa Scott - to name a few - are among the long time, strong contributors who are retiring at the end of this school year.

Over the last few years, Templeton has lost many of the folks who participated in the building of a stellar school system. As we have lost their exemplary skills, we were also losing their historic and institutional knowledge - and along with it, the gradual loss of the culture and mores that were foundational to the excellence in education that Templeton has provided.

The District is also facing systemic budgetary challenges brought about through shrinking student enrollment (mostly due to housing costs), and almost constantly increasing costs for special education along with growing employee benefits costs.

With student numbers at a premium and local districts doing all they can to hold on to their students, the growing perception that TUSD has dropped a notch or two in terms of academic excellence is concerning. That combined with the fact that leading architect of Templeton's excellence in education (Curt Dubost) is now on board as Paso's Superintendent, Templeton finds itself in a huge competitive challenge for students. If Paso eclipses Templeton, it is highly probable that Templeton could see an exodus of students to Paso schools.

Our school district and community is at a major crossroads.

Nanette Fisher, Editor/Publisher Soaring Eagle Press

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