New Principal, Assistants at Curtis High School

Margaret Purdy has been selected as principal at Curtis High School. She comes to us from the University Place School District in Tacoma. After earning a bachelor’s degree in marketing at the University of Washington, Purdy worked as a teacher at Union High School in Union, Wash. She then went on to earn a master’s degree in educational administration from Pacific Lutheran University. Purdy has experience working with teachers to increase proficiency with technology and coordinating mandatory training for all employees in areas required by state and federal regulations through monthly Labor Management meetings and contract negotiations.

Cliff Schlattman has been selected as assistant principal at Curtis High School. He comes to us from the University Place School District, where he headed up their Operations and Facilities for the previous six years and then to Portland.

Larry Melhorn has been selected as a new principal at UPSD in Director of Behavioral Education and Health. In his role, he supports the work of the principal in both intermediate schools, the junior high, high school, and alternative programs. Originally from Grants Pass, Ore., Larry moved to Wash. in 1982. He taught science in Federal Way and then as a principal and superintendent.

Chamber of Commerce

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Title III (Transitional Bilingual) – k12.wa.us/Migrant Bilingual/default.aspx

www.reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us

Attendance, test participation rates, performance of students –

Federal and State Funding

Parents’ Right to Know

www.upsd.wednet.edu

Regular Board Meetings

A Message from School Board President Michael Ehart

The district will provide support for training and the strengthening of curriculum throughout the year. If you have questions or comments, please call the Educational Service Center (253-656-5660) or email lmathews@upsd.wednet.edu; or Section 504/FAPE/ADA concerns should be made to Director of Special Education, Lainey Mathews.

The University Place School District School Board community continually monitors called “linkages,” which enable an in-person tour of the district by learning what members of the community think about current policies, engaging unique, educational resources, and other issues that affect how we educate our children. Past linkages have included district meetings, senior citizen, and community service groups discussing such topics as safety at our schools and how our district contributes to the development of quality columns. Most recently, we had board involvement and school officials of the Washington State Senate and House to discuss the future of education in Washington State and, more specifically, how the current funding struggles may be resolved at the state level.

Lainey Mathews – the assistant superintendent for learning at the University Place School District and the assistant superintendent for learning at the University Place School District – is a highly visible and influential state official who offers other issues that our district contributes to the development of quality columns. Most recently, the board involved and school officials of the Washington State Senate and House to discuss the future of education in Washington State and, specifically, how the current funding struggles may be resolved at the state level.

The board finds this feedback extremely valuable. We encourage parents and anyone in the community to participate in our student tour and other events to watch our students in action and for opportunities to join us at these linkage meetings. Of course, you are welcome to attend any of our regular meetings as well! We invite you to our next meeting and wondering on this great school district. We meet on the third Thursday of each month, and meetings are held at the district office. We also have a schedule of board meeting times, and locations can be found at our website at www.upsd.wednet.edu.

A Message from School Board President Michael Ehart

For the fifth year in a row, Curtis High School boasts the state’s highest National Merit Semifinalists. The 2014-15 SAT data from the Smarter Balanced Assessment (Grades 3-8) and the Student Progress Science (Grades 5-8) and, in this case, End of Course Exam, 2015.

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Continuing on the Road to Success

A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin

Over the last 5+ years, it has been our pleasure to work closely with parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, students, citizens, and our Board of Directors in University Place to provide students with a quality education in a safe and enjoyable environment. It has been gratifying for the opportunity to continue this work as your Superintendent. I am confident that we can accomplish even greater things for our children in the years to come. Our district regrets a reputation for being one of the best in the state. Moving forward, I am committed to building on our strengths and expanding the breadth of our curriculum, aligning our expectations for student achievement, and the development of new rules and guidelines to govern our work regarding ongoing growth. Our citizens can expect an informed, cautious, but steady determined approach to the future guided by the following framework.

Keep Students Safe

Students take our first priorities. While we strive to ensure academic outcomes for our students, first priority is to nurture and protect the children in our care. The safe and orderly operation of the school district is inextricably connected to both priorities.

Prepare Students for College and Career Success

In 2015, we had the goal of ensuring that 75 percent of Curtis graduates enrolled in two-year or four-year colleges in their first year after high school—one of the highest rates of post-secondary educational attainment in the state. Other graduates joined the military, entered the workforce or attended vocational or technical schools. It is essential that we remain focused on helping our students acquire the critical academic and skills that will help to launch them on a post-secondary pathway and the skills that they will need to successfully transition to college.

Make Public Funds Wisely

Being responsible with the taxpayers’ money is both a moral and practical necessity. Our schools have long enjoyed the reputation for being fiscally responsible, and this reputation is one of the main reasons why the city of University Place supported our new, state-of-the-art high school with a $125 million bond.

Promote Equity for All Students

Our work over the last decade has focused on the needs of all families who have been a hallmark of the district. In addition to our core academic program, we have developed an extensive set of strong and effective interventions to provide additional help to struggling learners. UPSD students from all backgrounds outperform their peers in the region and state no matter their race or gender. UPSD students have performed strongly on a variety of assessments, including Smarter Balanced and PARCC.

We must ensure that every child regardless of income, race, sex, or background, has a positive experience in our schools and is given the support they need to achieve their highest potential.

Other Diverse Educational and Extracurricular Programs

We have developed a broad array of extracurricular programs designed to create a diverse and wide set of academic and extracurricular programs. This has long been an expectation of the community. We must transform our existing programs to better support the needs of students interested in pursuing fine arts, performing arts, vocational programs, service and volunteer opportunities, world language acquisition, STEM and technology programs, health and fitness activities and competitive athletics. Each of these programs plays a critical role in the healthy development of our children and we will need the ongoing support of the entire community to make these programs successful and sustainable.

Nurtur & Grow

Community Partnerships

University Place School District is lucky to have many important partnerships with community groups and organizations that add value to the services we deliver to our students. We believe that the support of our community is critical to the success of our students. The dedication of parents and community members is truly the strength of our district. We are very proud of our partnerships and look forward to strengthening them in the years to come.

Thank you for your support of this work and for your collective commitment to quality education for every child. It is an honor to work with our dedicated staff and board to care for all of our students.

Jeff Chamberlin, Superintendent