

MCCSC hires Hanks as new talent and diversity specialist

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The MCCSC board hired Diane Hanks, currently a Tri-North Middle School assistant principal, as MCCSC1090s talent and diversity specialist on Tuesday.

I am most excited to join the MCCSC central office team, said Hanks to the board. As I serve as the talent and diversity specialist for our schools, I look forward to our continued progress in all areas of diversity.104

To take on the new full-time position, Hanks will no longer work at the middle school. 103I will always miss Tri-North, she said after the meeting. 61555It is a special place.420182

Hanks is MCCSC1843s first talent and diversity specialist. The position was devised as a result of the publics response to the hiring of Craig Fisher, a white man, as Tri-Norths principal, instead of Hanks, a black woman, who was also a candidate for the position and had more years of experience. When Fisher was hired Aug. 27, a crowd of people came to the board meeting and expressed concern that MCCSC was not hiring diverse staff. The most recent data available from the Department of Education shows 96.5 percent of MCCSC faculty in 2010-11 were white.

After the meeting, Superintendent Judy DeMuth said reflecting on the statements made when Fisher was hired helped her realize we truly didnt have anyone at the administration level. We recognized Dianes expertise could help us in this area.31161

According to DeMuth, no one else was considered for the new post.

We knew Diane and knew her skill sets, said Assistant Superintendent Peggy Chambers. 103She knows our community, our school corporation and our children.1090

Chambers noted that while teacher and support staff positions are advertised, we often have positions we don103t post. MCCSC did not advertise for the new job, which offers Hanks the same \$76,913.47 salary she earned as assistant principal.

Hanks251074724 work begins immediately, and she will give a report of her progress once a month at each board meeting. She intends to start by developing a comprehensive plan, and part of it will include forming an advisory board. The goal is to develop a plan that is thoughtful, has purpose, is contemplative and reflective. It will represent the voices and needs of everyone students, faculty, staff, families and the community,6 Hanks said to the board.

Although she said she felt wonderful when accepting the position a couple of weeks ago, Hanks believes there may be some challenges. With any new initiative, you may get some push-back, she said after leaving the meeting. 3We all have to understand that theres a bigger learning curve for some of us more than others.

Chambers said outcomes of the new position may be reflected in data while other (results) will be more intrinsic in nature.

On Tuesday night, Jonathan Siegelin was hired to fill Fisher27902798s role as assistant principal at Tri-North, and another candidate for assistant principal will be chosen to take Hanks place. We hope to make a recommendation at the next board meeting, said Assistant Superintendent Peggy Chambers.

1843This will be a new opportunity for everyone to move forward, said Hanks. We need to grow from where we are now. The board has been open and supportive, and I hope thats what well have throughout the community.1513

Monroe County Community School Corp.11241125909s next board meeting will be 6 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive.

2014 budget approved

The MCCSC board adopted the 2014 budget unanimously Tuesday. The general fund is \$67.5 million, up from \$66.7 million in 2013.

Director of Business Operations Tim Thrasher noted that general fund money no longer comes from property tax revenue. It is now based on the state school funding formula, with MCCSC receiving \$5,415 per student enrolled.

Thrasher said he had expected about a 2 percent increase for the general fund. However, the enrollment count has come in significantly lower than it was in 2013; were looking at an increase in state support of 1.6 percent in 2014,39121326 he said.

36Every student we lose to another school is money that comes out of our budget that we dont have to spend on projects and staff, said MCCSC board member Susan Wanzer.

Diane Hanks

