

Hear ye! Hear ye! Come one; come all to the annual board meeting on Tuesday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the school. Your teachers are preparing an academic review of the past year. Come see how well your kiddos did as the teachers share statewide testing data with us. It will be a time for celebration.

Since we are sharing, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Chuck Ward and I am now the principal of Thomas Jefferson Charter School. I am getting up there in the years but bring a wealth of experience from both the public and charter settings – 26 years all totaled. I have worked with all age levels of students from pre-schoolers up to seniors in high school. I am very excited to return to a small school setting where I can know all of the kids and families who attend our school.

We have other new staff members joining the team next year too. As many of you know, Mrs. Ozuna will be teaching Science to all of our students in grades k through 7 next year. Taking her place in the kindergarten classroom is a veteran teacher from the Caldwell School District, Jill Van Order. I personally worked with and supervised Jill 10 years ago and can attest to her skill in the classroom. Moving into the middle school will be Jaime Piatt and Jamie Andersen. Jaime Piatt will be teaching Math and Social Studies to our 7th and 8th graders while Jamie Andersen will be teaching reading and writing to them. Both ladies have Harbor School experience as well as public education experience. Mrs. Piatt comes highly recommended from the math teacher at North Star Charter and Mrs. Anderson worked with me in the past and taught my middle son. They will both be great and love those middle schoolers! Jamie Brunmeier is coming to us from Vallivue High School and will be teaching 8th-12th grade Science as well as art and AP art. She too has worked with me the past two years. I put my own son in her class for Science. Jeremy Brunson comes to us from the Meridian District and Meridian Technical Charter High School. He will be teaching high school Social Studies, Psychology, Debate, Journalism and some technology classes. I coached Jeremy in baseball when he was 12, so I have known him for a year or two as well as his family.

Yes, a prerequisite for teaching at Thomas Jefferson this year was to have the letter “J” in your name to go along with “Jefferson” in our school’s name!

As we move into the summer break, know that your school board is not taking a break at all. They will be working to find another board member or two to fill in the shoes of members who were unable to continue volunteering their time and talents for our school. Finding a fit will be a challenging responsibility, but our board is up to that task. All the while, another “J” hire will be filling the shoes of Gale Frank, our board clerk who is moving to Montana. Dawn Jensen, a secretary from the Caldwell School District, will be working with Mrs. Frank, the board, and Mr. Ward in the month of July preparing to take on the task of board clerk starting in August. Mrs. Jensen worked for me during my principalship in Caldwell. She is a talented lady with a great sense of humor! Mrs. Frank will continue on with us in the capacity of Business Manager.

And look at that high school! We are moving on up into 11th grade next year. Our incoming junior class is full with 32 students as we speak. Go ahead and encourage

friends or family to sign up for the high school waiting list as one never knows what might transpire over the summer. It is good for our high schoolers to have full classes so they experience the social aspects of the teen years. We are looking forward to new electives, more students and a class trip to the historical east coast in the spring of 2010.

Well, enough for now. I wish all of you a great summer and hope that you can make it to our July board meeting so you too can see what a great job your students and our teachers have done. Let us make this a time for celebration. Also mark your calendars for Monday, August 11th as we have a "Meet the Teacher" activity at the school at 7:00 p.m.

Best regards,

Chuck Ward