



Pen City Current

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 | 12 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 145

More parents voice concerns over FMMS incidents

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Two more couples and a former student have come forward with allegations of abuse at the hands of a Fort Madison school official.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison School Board, Brian Wright, Amy and Kevin Wellman, Melissa Boyd, and former student Seth Wright all spoke to the school board in the public comment period of the meeting about the alleged abuses.

As has been school board protocol, the board allowed each person three minutes to speak. Board President Tim Wondra also asked those addressing the board not use the names of any parties associated with the reported incidents due to confidentiality. However several of the speakers brought the names out in the public meeting, including the names of their children.

Wright then said Fort Madison Middle School Principal Todd Dirth had assaulted his daughter by grabbing her arm and leaving a bruise, when his daughter

didn't say good morning to school officials on the way in to school back in September.

"This is in regards to the last meeting I came to in regards to the physical assault of my daughter Brianna at the hands of Todd Dirth," Wright said.

He pointed to several school policy codes that he believes the school violated in conducting the investigation.

Wright said according to school policy section

See ALLEGATIONS, page 5

McKay takes reigns at Richardson



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

New Richardson Elementary School Principal Adrian McKay shakes hands with district curriculum director Kim Harmon at Monday's Fort Madison school board meeting. McKay's hiring was approved at the meeting.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison will have a familiar face leading one of its elementary programs in the fall.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison Community School District's Board of Directors, Adrian McKay was approved as part of the agenda to be the next Richardson Elementary School principal.

McKay comes from a special education background teaching for seven years in an Illinois co-op

school near Macomb. He's also served for two years with the Great River Area Education Agency as a special education consultant and worked for a year in Anamosa as the assistant principal at a preK-4 elementary school.

McKay moved to Fort Madison in 2012 and has a family here. He calls Fort Madison his hometown and says he is thrilled to be able to take an administrative position in his hometown.

"I think you have a lot of candidates in our field and when they go into administration their hopes

See PRINCIPAL, page 6

Board approves 5-year contract with teachers

Contract flies in face of 2017 Chapter 20 overhaul

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The 2017 Chapter 20 overhaul has left many school districts in Iowa in a bind as the new legislation has created some huge divides between teachers and school administrators. Well....most districts.



SLATER

Fort Madison, on the other hand, is sort of lighting the way along a road less traveled as the district and teachers agreed to a five-year master contract at Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison School board.



WONDRA

Iowa Code Chapter 20 was the code that was dismantled by Iowa's Republican leadership early in 2017 leaving teachers with the right to negotiate for wages only. All other bargaining rights were stripped away by the state's legislature and then Governor Terry Branstad.

"It was basically union busting," said Fort Madison Middle School teacher Rachella Dravis, who attended Monday's meeting to be there for the approval of the contract.

But Dravis said with other school districts in the area fighting over contract renewals, Fort Madison's was a

See HANDBOOK, page 8

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Obituaries/Scene Around Town



Photo courtesy of Martha Milligan Photography

It was a Flag Day

Local Elks Lodge #374 celebrates Flag Day. Elks Exalted Ruler Scott Meller led the ceremony, which included a history of the progression of the American flag along with the presentation of each flag by local Boy Scouts.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT E. "BOB" ROXLAU

Robert E. "Bob" Roxlau, 85, of Donnellson, passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 8:30 AM at Sunnybrook Assisted Living.



ROXLAU

He was born on May 4, 1933 in Ft. Madison to Edward and Helen Fraune Roxlau. Bob was a 1951 graduate of Catholic Central High School and he received his Bachelors Degree in Physics from St. Ambrose University in 1960. Bob worked for Parker Hannifin Corporation for thirty four years in various management positions including eighteen years as a plant manager and the last eight years as General Manager of eight manufacturing plants. He was a member of Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus and Mississippi Valley Vintage Race Car Association. Bob served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict as a Field Artillery Instructor.



Survivors include one brother, William Roxlau of Donnellson; one sister, Mary Van Pelt of Ft. Madison; eight nieces and nephews, Michael (Joanne) Bean, Don (Deb) Sylvester, Donni Sue (Dave Steward) Karczmarczyk, Pat Roxlau, Angela (Jerry) Cooper, David VanPelt, John VanPelt and Melissa VanPelt. A brother in law, Leo Rono. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Doris; a niece, MaryAnn Roxlau; a nephew, Andy VanPelt; brother in law, Don VanPelt and a sister in law, Clarine Roxlau.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. A wake service will be held at 6 PM. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Southeast Area Special Olympics and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

FMCH Welcomes Dr. Rachel Knudson



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Be sure to attend for some of the great discounts that will be given on select tours that are available **ONLY** at the Travel Show! RSVP's are not required, however they are greatly appreciated. Give us a call at 319-753-2864 x162 to save yourself a seat, it's sure to be a great show!

We look forward to seeing you all there!



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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

06/15/18 - 8:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Samuel Joseph Johnson, 62, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of 39th Street on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 06/15/18 - 10:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
 06/15/18 - 12:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 600 block of Avenue F.
 06/15/18 - 1:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Eric Eugene Fortune, Jr., 25, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue J on a charge of driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/15/18 - 1:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 06/15/18 - 3:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue E.
 06/15/18 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 06/15/18 - 6:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of hit and run in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 06/16/18 - 9:11 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 23rd Street.
 06/16/18 - 10:37 a.m. - Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue J.
 06/16/18 - 4:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Avenue I.
 06/16/18 - 9:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of gas drive off in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 06/16/18 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Mabel Ann Cahoon, 60, of Fort Madison at 11th Street and Avenue H, for driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.
 06/16/18 - 10:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Ian Michael Brasfield, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue E on charges of public intoxication, interference with official acts, and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/17/18 - 8:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of 36th Street.
 06/17/18 - 8:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of Avenue E.
 06/17/18 - 8:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Matthew Kristian Smith, 21, of Donnellson in the 700 block of Avenue E for driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 06/17/18 - 9:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested David James Levins, 27, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue K, on a charge of public intoxication and domestic assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/17/18 - 10:46 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the

3000 block of Avenue E.
 06/18/18 - 12:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue M.
 06/18/18 - 3:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of stolen vehicle in the 3400 block of Avenue E.
 06/18/18 - 4:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 34th Place.

Lee County Sheriff's report

06/15/18 - 2:32 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyler Mitchell Plowman, 27, of Burlington at the Des Moines County Jail on two warrants from contempt of court. He was held in custody.
 06/15/18 - 9:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alan Edward Snyder, 44, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of interference with corrections staff-assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/16/18 - 10:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eileen Marie Arch,

38, of Keokuk, in the 3900 block of Valley Road in Keokuk on charge of contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 06/17/18 - 8:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Royce Ann King, 62, of Keokuk, on Hwy. 61 in Montrose for OWI. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/18/18 - 2:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile from Burlington for as-

sault on a corrections officer. He was held at the Southeast Iowa juvenile detention center for a court hearing. *Those listed above a presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

06/16/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one lift assist
 06/17/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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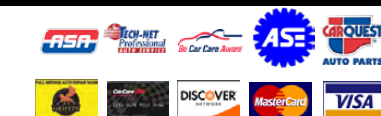
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Education/Sports

Holy Trinity Catholic releases final 2017-18 honor rolls

FORT MADISON - The following is the 4th quarter and second semester honor rolls submitted by the Holy Trinity Catholic school system. Pen City Current congratulates all the students on their academic success this past school year.

4th Quarter Honor Roll 2017-2018

4.0 Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Kayla Box, Laura Mehmert
 8th Grade: Abby Holtkamp, Cassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak
 9th Grade: Katherine Denning, Ava Peitz, Claire Pothitakis, Maria Rauenbuehler, Chandler Rung, Roselynn Strickland, Jason Thurman
 10th Grade: Reed Fehseke, Reagan Garrels, Nicole Pothitakis, Samantha Pothitakis, Elle Rashid
 11th Grade: Sam Avery, Emily Box, Elyse Pothitakis, Kyle Scheetz, Katie Scoville
 12th Grade: Ben Abolt,

Aden Alfred, Kayleigh Biegler, Grant Ellison, Sabrina Fullhart, Conrad Hellman, Samantha Hoenig, Madison Mohrfeld, Maya Rashid, Collin Thornton
 A Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Emily Boeding, Abby Denning, Alexa Dingman, Rachel Menke, Brooke Mueller, Jacob Pothitakis, Brianna Wright
 8th Grade: Lucy Graham, Ace Meierotto, Mitchell Pothitakis, Ava Rashid, Raquel Schneider, Jackson Van Hamme
 9th Grade: Danny Caruso, Taylor Crabtree, Bailey Hellweg, Alison Robu, Annabelle Scheetz, Vasin Thurman, Emma Torgler, Tori Vincent
 10th Grade: Blake Crabtree, Brandon Delaney, Ashlyn Haas, Mason Holvoet, Avery Hopper, Ryan Otte, Maille Sheerin, Jayde Watznauer
 11th Grade: Eryn Anderson, Taylor Boeding, Mya Lawlor, Carson Schroeder,

Hannah Torgler, Jorie Whitaker
 12th Grade: Emily Dingman, Austin Haas, Joseph Hummel, Ryan Rees, Brett Schneider, Bradley Sporkman
 B Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Mary Hellige, James Scheetz, Paige Wasielewski
 8th Grade: Jackson Blint, Tessa Gendron, Phillip Goldie, Michael Hellman, Jack Malinski, Kelli Meierotto, Mya Schmitz, Alexis Stalcup
 9th Grade: Cassandra Campbell, Garrett Hannum, Jordan Mueller, Sara Roth, John Stinson
 10th Grade: Abby Dingman, Ambrosia Dustin, Rhett Fullhart, Claire Graham, Matthew Hellige, Wyatt Hellman, Jacob Mohrfeld, Quentin Schneider, DaYeong You
 11th Grade: Joshua Barr, Kyle Bredemeyer, Audrey Campbell, Connor Holvoet, Alec Mehmert, Adam Rauenbuehler, Audrae

Vincent
 12th Grade: Zander Schweiss
Second Semester Honor Roll 2017-2018
 4.0 Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Laura Mehmert, Brianna Wright
 8th Grade: Abby Holtkamp, Cassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak
 9th Grade: Katherine Denning, Bailey Hellweg, Ava Peitz, Claire Pothitakis, Maria Rauenbuehler, Chandler Rung, Vasin Thurman.
 10th Grade: Reed Fehseke, Reagan Garrels, Nicole Pothitakis, Samantha Pothitakis, Elle Rashid
 11th Grade: Sam Avery, Taylor Boeding, Emily Box, Elyse Pothitakis, Kyle Scheetz, Katie Scoville
 12th Grade: Ben Abolt, Aden Alfred, Kayleigh Biegler, Sabrina Fullhart, Conrad Hellman, Samantha Hoenig, Madison Mohrfeld, Maya Rashid, Collin Thornton

A Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Emily Boeding, Kayla Box, Abby Denning, Alexa Dingman, Rachel Menke, Jacob Pothitakis, Paige Wasielewski
 8th Grade: Lucy Graham, Michael Hellman, Jack Malinski, Ace Meierotto, Mitchell Pothitakis, Ava Rashid, Raquel Schneider, Alexis Stalcup, Jackson Van Hamme
 9th Grade: Danny Caruso, Taylor Crabtree, Alison Robu, Annabelle Scheetz, Roselynn Strickland, Jason Thurman, Emma Torgler, Tori Vincent
 10th Grade: Blake Crabtree, Brandon Delaney, Abby Dingman, Ambrosia Dustin, Ashlyn Haas, Mason Holvoet, Avery Hopper, Jacob Mohrfeld, Ryan Otte, Maille Sheerin
 11th Grade: Eryn Anderson, Mya Lawlor, Adam Rauenbuehler, Carson Schroeder, Hannah Torgler, Jorie Whitaker
 12th Grade: Emily Ding-

man, Grant Ellison, Austin Haas, Joseph Hummel, Ryan Rees, Brett Schneider, Bradley Sporkman
 B Honor Roll
 7th Grade: Jenna DiPrima, Elle Dostalek, Nikolas Fullenkamp, Mary Hellige, Brooke Mueller, James Scheetz
 8th Grade: Jackson Blint, Phillip Goldie, Alesha Hellman, Blake Hemann, Kelli Meierotto, Mya Schmitz
 9th Grade: Colby Bredemeyer, Cassandra Campbell, Garrett Hannum, Sara Roth, John Stinson
 10th Grade: Evan Ellison, Rhett Fullhart, Matthew Hellige, Wyatt Hellman, Quentin Schneider, Jayde Watznauer, DaYeong You
 11th Grade: Joshua Barr, Kyle Bredemeyer, Audrey Campbell, Connor Holvoet, Alec Mehmert, Audrae Vincent
 12th Grade: Milo Orton, Zander Schweiss

FMHS girls drop two games at Mt. Pleasant

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - The Fort Madison Lady Hounds were swept by Mt. Pleasant in a doubleheader Monday to highlight girls softball action.

Fort Madison's Cassie Powers took the loss in game one giving up two runs, but that's all the Panther's would need as junior Anni Liechty shut out the Hounds 2-0.

Senior Sadie Smithburg went 1 for 2 at the plate, after reaching to open the game on error at 2nd. After a Kylie Cashman

strikeout, Olivia Williams lined out to second and Smithburg was doubled off at the bag.

The Hound wouldn't get another baserunner until the top of the third when junior Vanessa Golowach reached on a two-out walk, but was thrown out a third after Smithburg lined a base hit to left.

Logan Johnson drew a walk with no outs in the top of the fifth with the Panthers already up 2-0, but couldn't move up as Galowach fanned, Smithburg grounded out to the pitcher and Cash-

man struck out to end the inning. FMHS went 1-2-3 in the top of the seventh to end the game.

The Panthers scored in the fourth on a two-out RBI double by Savanna Walls that plated Trinity Krabill. They scored again in the fifth when Lyndi Vantiger drove Chi Glaha with another two-out hit.

Powers got the hard-luck award on the night when she again took the loss for the Hounds in a 6-5 affair in game two.

The Hounds carried a 5-0 lead into the

bottom of the fifth inning, but Mount Pleasant put up three to cut the lead highlighted by Keelyn McNamee's two RBI single with one out. Glaha would follow with another single that plated McNamee before Powers could get out of the inning.

Mt. Pleasant would score two more in the bottom of the sixth and the game-winner in the bottom of the seventh when Liechty hit a two-out RBI single to drive in Makayla Cam who had doubled in the prior at bat.



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


TUE 19 Jun

 Heavy Intensity Rain
 High – 73.9° F | Low – 68.6° F


WED 20 Jun

 Light Rain
 High – 70.4° F | Low – 67.5° F


THU 21 Jun

 Heavy Intensity Rain
 High – 65.2° F | Low – 67.3° F

FRI 22 Jun

 Moderate Rain
 High – 63.8° F | Low – 57.3° F

SAT 23 Jun

 Light Rain
 High – 69.8° F | Low – 62.7° F

OpenWeatherMap

From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Parents complain district not investigating incidents properly

ALLEGATIONS - Continued from Page 1

402.3-R-1, a Level 1 investigator, or the superintendent of the district, upon a report of alleged abuse, will file a report of which a copy is required to be provided to the parents of the student in addition to other parties. Then within five days an informal investigation is to take place including an interview with the student.

Wright said neither of those two requirements were met by the district.

The policy also states that, "Upon completion of the report, if the Level I investigator determines the allegations of physical abuse are founded and serious, the Level I investigator will notify law enforcement authorities. If the allegations are founded but the physical abuse is not of a serious nature, the Level I investigator will refer the case on to the Level II investigator."

Wright contends that the district did not refer the incident to a Level II officer, which is the district's school resource officer. Wright said he questioned the school's resource officer seven months after the incident and was told the school never referred the issue to the SRO.

Heather Wellman also spoke to the board about her son who was slapped in the back of the head by Dirth. Wellman said Dirth admitted to slapping her son in the back of the head as he walked by.

"Obviously, if we had done more, more kids wouldn't be getting assaulted by him," she said.

Wellman said she went to the police and they told her it wasn't an assault because there was no mark. Wellman said a whole class saw the alleged incident because her son had walked up to the school and had to walk back to the back of the class line.

Seth Wright, who went to the school years ago at the former middle school, said Dirth "plucked" a safety pin from his lip that he was wearing to keep a piercing closed while he was eating.

"I was approached by the person in question and was asked to take it out and I reminded him of a meeting my parents had with him two days before and he decided to pluck it out gouging my lip and then immediately had me restrained."

Wright said to know this is still going on was ridiculous and if the dis-

trict has a zero tolerance district, the issues need to be addressed and district officials aren't doing their job if nothing is being done.

Melissa Boyd has a special needs child in the district who had gotten out of control in 2012 as a sixth grader. Boyd, a former employee of the district, admitted her son had behavioral issues.

She said her son was having a melt down in class and said her son was out of instructional support control and Dirth was called down to the class that had been cleared. Dirth held her son down on the floor to restrain him and had his face held into the cement floor. She said her son indicated he couldn't breathe and Dirth wouldn't relent. She said there was another issue the same day, where Dirth used a chair to restrain her son "as a lion tamer would".

Dirth has not been charged with assault in any of the cases and law enforcement was notified in each of the case.

District officials have declined to comment on the issue citing confidentiality laws regarding personal and personnel information.

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Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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6/17 EVENING
4 2 4



6/17 MID-DAY
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6/17 EVENING
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From the Front/Classifieds

McKay attracted to school district's larger initiatives

PRINCIPAL - Continued from Page 1

are wanting to land back closer to their hometown," he said.

"What was great for me was I kept up with what was going on in the district with regard to the initiatives that were going on. With (Superintendent) Erin (Slater) and (Curriculum Director) Kim Harmon coming in and the large initiative of the Professional Learning Communities, I could just see again there was an effort of more alignment across the district K-12. I know they are great here, but I've seen a springboard into even greater things."

As a resident, McKay said he knows the physical challenges of Richardson, but is choosing to focus on the what he can influence.

"I'm very aware of the physical environment at Richardson and the challenges that imposes," he said.

"I would have to tell you that one of the things I'm going to have my staff focusing is the controllables and things we can influence and not those

we can't control. This is definitely one of those things we can influence and I know this community is working hard to get another facility built. My hope is that we get to where we have new facilities but it's going to take some time and working with the community. Overall, new facilities can contribute to higher learning for our students."

He said he's looked at performance data at Richardson and said good things are already taking place.

"They're doing well. There's always room for improvement. Literacy is an area they've improved. And nationally we see struggles in areas of mathematics but there's not as much research in that area as literacy."

McKay said there's a huge national debate on standardized assessments and he didn't want to go too deep into them, but he said they do serve a purpose.

"It is a great snapshot of student performance and it can assist us in making sure we are serving

“*...I know they are great here, but I've seen a springboard into even greater things.*”

-Adrian McKay, Richardson principal

students the best way we can," he said.

McKay completed his Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Western Illinois University and his Masters degree in Educational Policy Leadership at the University of Iowa and will be replacing Emily Settles who is leaving the district for a position in the WACO school district in the fall.

"I am overjoyed to be in what I consider to be my hometown now. What I'm most excited about is beginning my work serving students and their families and the staff at Richardson," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FORT MADISON SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RULES

1. The purpose of this program is to furnish an opportunity for residential property owners to replace existing deteriorated sidewalks and/or to install new sidewalks in front of existing buildings where no sidewalk now exists. This does not include driveway approaches or sidewalks going to the residential unit. It does include sidewalk, which is located within the street right-of-way.

2. The property owner's responsibility will be to remove and dispose of the deteriorated sidewalk or excavate where new sidewalk would go, form the sidewalk to be poured, and place the concrete. This work can be done either by the property owner, renter, or your contractor. The City will not pay for Saturday delivery charges. Work cannot begin before July 1st.

3. The City of Fort Madison will inspect the sidewalk prior to approval of your application, prior to removal and prior to placement of the new sidewalk. The Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co. will bill the City for the concrete used and the City of Fort Madison will pay for the concrete directly to the supplier. The City will not pay for the additional Saturday delivery charge. If the property owner wishes to have the delivery on Saturday the bill for the delivery will be sent to the property owner. No payments will be made directly to the property owner. The concrete can be ordered by the property owner or your contractor from:

Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co.

1204 14th Street
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319-372-4183

4. The sidewalk shall be constructed according to the sidewalk design specifications which can be acquired at the Fort Madison Public Works Department.

5. Each application will be evaluated based on its condition and how it improves the area for pedestrian traffic. Extra consideration will be given for connection to an existing sidewalk.

6. Applications for this program will be available on May 1st at 8:00 A.M. and will be accepted through June 22nd at 4:30 P.M. Each proposal will be evaluated and you will be notified by July 2nd. The City will fund projects as funding is available. The replacement work cannot take place before July 1st and must be approved by the City prior to the commencement of the work.

HELP WANTED

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Lee County Health Department is seeking an Iowa Registered Dental Hygienist to work in the agency's dental programs. The RDH will work under a public health supervision agreement with an Iowa licensed dentist. Duties will include providing preventive direct care services as well as education, outreach, and dental care coordination services. Applicants can mail resume to Michele Ross, Program Director to LCHD at PO BOX 1426, Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email to mross@leecountyhd.org as soon as possible. EOE.

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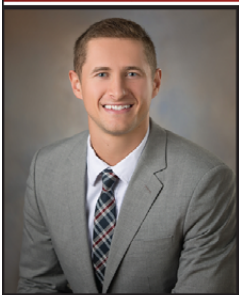
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From the Front

FMCS D teachers, administration share credit for work

HANDBOOK - Continued from Page 1

much smoother process with a longer result. With the transfer of the other former bargaining options to the district's certified employee handbook, which was also approved Monday night, the Fort Madison Education Association and the school district sat down and went to work on both documents.

Dravis said two years ago, before the scrapping of Chapter 20, the teachers' union and administration agreed to establish a labor-management committee, but she said it never got off the ground with the previous administration.

Superintendent Erin Slater said negotiations on the employee handbook was arduous at times, but she said it's groundbreaking that two sides were able to work together to come up with a document that fits both sides.

"There is some relief in the room," Slater said directing her comments at Dravis. "This is a labor of love and a labor of just hard work. This has been a year-long process of the FMEA and the administration forming a two-year process of our labor management group. The first year we did labor management we didn't really know what we were doing and we sat around the table and became collaborative, initially about insurance, but it was part of the contract to have a labor management committee, but never got off the ground and we decided it needed to get off the ground."

The committee had monthly meetings with five members of FMEA and four from administration.

"We combed through this book line-by-line, word-

"When you read in the newspapers, you read everything else that going on in the state, this is a big deal."

-Dianne Hope
FMCS D school board

by-word, to make sure what we understood this to actually mean. This needs to be a document that makes sense to everyone. There were sessions where we sat for two or three hours working through two paragraphs because it was such intense language that we wanted to make sure everyone understood."

Slater said it was important that the handbook be a professional document that reflected the direction of the school district as a whole.

"We've got attention to detail and we've got some things we're gonna try different next year that's a little outside the box, that we think our members are really going to be excited about," she said "We wanted this to be a professional document. Our employees are professional people and they needed to be treated as such and so we needed to make sure that language reflected that."

Dravis said the handbook and contract put Fort

Madison front and center with state education officials.

"I want to make sure the board realizes this is a big deal. We were handed this thing down from the state and I am so just so proud to know that we worked with the hand that was dealt and we worked in such a positive way. The people in Des Moines and across the state are waiting on us. They want to know what it is we're doing and they want to know how we're doing it and how our labor-management committee



YOUNG

is working. Fort Madison is being put on the map in such a positive way."

Board President Tim Wondra said it was important for the community to see the length of the contract.

"This is just another new thing for us," he said.

Board member Gayla Young, who teaches in the Danville school district, said it was a very contract and handbook are huge accomplishments.

"Most people don't realize what a big deal this is, to take the hand the state gave us when they gutted everything, and you had to work together. Lots and lost of district can't do that and they still have the them-against-us mentality," she said.

Dianne Hope pointed out the district had the forethought to start the labor-management group two years ago, before the legislation changed.

"When you read in the newspapers, you read everything else that's going on in the state, this is a big deal" Hope said.

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