

# News Release

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## **Board Approves Administrative Restructuring for 2009-10 School Year; District to Hire Assistant Principal, Appoint RTI Coordinator**

INGLESIDE, IL – April 23, 2009 – To better meet the needs of all Big Hollow students as the student population grows, an administrative restructuring will take place effective for the 2009-10 school year.

Enrollment projections for next year indicate 400 students in the Primary School (grades K-1 plus the Early Childhood program), 550 students in the Elementary School (grades 2-4) and 650 in the Middle School (grades 5-8). Citing the need to better engage 5th-graders within the Middle School, and increasing programming, scheduling and discipline considerations there, the Big Hollow School Board approved at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 20, a one-year reorganization of Big Hollow's administrative team as follows:

- The Middle School administrative team will comprise Superintendent Ron Pazanin, Principal Margaret Webb and Assistant Principal Deb Coolidge. (The District office will move to the Middle School building.)
- Christine Arndt, currently Principal of the Primary School, will become Principal for grades K-4.
- Dawn Smith will move over to the Primary School as Assistant Principal.
- An Assistant Principal will be onsite in the Elementary School. The Board approved beginning the hiring process for this position.

The new administrative configuration will be evaluated at the end of next school year for effectiveness and potential continuation.

Also at its April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the School Board approved the appointment of a new RTI Facilitator. RTI, or Response To Intervention, is an instructional process mandated for all Illinois public schools for the 2009-10 school year. The RTI Facilitator will have a host of RTI responsibilities, including:

- Implementing year-start and year-end student screenings and reviewing assessments to determine which students are in need of primary and secondary interventions;
- Discussing with classroom teachers and facilitating primary interventions for students at need;
- Managing and coordinating support staff, interventions, timeframe and duration for students requiring more intensive interventions;
- Acting as a training resource to teachers, ensuring access to intervention support materials, serving as a liaison between classroom teachers and administration, and coordinating formal meetings with teachers and support staff to move students to more intensive levels of support as needed.

Other announcements at the April 20th Board meeting:

- A meeting to discuss the discipline component of RTI will take place from 6 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28 at the Middle School. Big Hollow community members are invited to participate.
- Two Big Hollow Middle School teachers have earned their doctorates in curriculum and instruction. Congratulations to Eeva Burns, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade science teacher, and Donna Rousseau, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math teacher, who completed their Ed.D. degrees through Loyola University-Chicago.
- The District has received five applications for participation in the Adopt-An-Island program. Many parking lot “islands” remain up for adoption; more information and applications are available in the District office.
- The PTO’s Clothing Resale was a huge success, raising \$3,500. The Rally for Rescue Pet Expo was similarly successful, drawing good attendance and raising awareness of the need for foster care or adoption of many deserving animals. The PTO’s Spring Zing, meanwhile, raised \$15,000, allowing the PTO to move forward with its planned purchase of bar-coding technology for Big Hollow libraries.

The Big Hollow School Board’s next meeting is a special meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, April 27 in the Middle School’s conference room. At that meeting, newly elected School Board members will take the oath of office and the new Board will elect its President, Vice President and Secretary and appoint a Treasurer. The next regular meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 18 at the Middle School. As always, the community is invited to attend.