

Centennial adds former Quakertown superintendent

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 9:30 pm

The Centennial school board has hired former Quakertown Superintendent Lisa Andrejko as a consultant to work with the district's shorthanded administrative staff.

Andrejko, who agreed to a deal through Oct. 31, brings an experienced educator to the staff as the district searches for a permanent replacement for former Superintendent Joyce Mundy, who resigned in April.

Jennifer Polinchock, the assistant superintendent, is acting superintendent until a permanent hire is made.

"Dr. Polinchock has worked extremely hard keeping our district and our team together," said board President Jane Schrader Lynch, who praised Polinchock at a special meeting Tuesday night and cited her long workdays. "We're very fortunate to have her with us."

Andrejko, 60, was Quakertown's superintendent for seven years. She resigned in January 2014. Centennial will pay her up to \$57,800 through Oct. 31. She is not a candidate for the superintendent post.

Andrejko began her 34-year career in public education as a music teacher. She went on to serve as director of technology in the East Stroudsburg Area School District. She became assistant principal and then principal at Southern Lehigh Middle School. She later served as the assistant superintendent and then became the superintendent in the Norristown Area School District.

"Anyone that needs help, I think I have the experience to help you," she said. "After spending one day here, I see you are certainly a district in transition with people doing multiple jobs. I'm happy to lend a hand wherever I can."

During her tenure in Quakertown, Andrejko created numerous innovative programs to help advance 21st century learning tools in the classrooms. She was recognized nationally for her success in integrating modern educational technology.

On a busy summer night, the board also approved the hiring of three assistant principals and officially sold the former Hart Elementary School. The 15-acre Hart property, plagued by issues that include asbestos and vandalism, was purchased by Envision Land Use LLC for \$438,000.

Warminster supervisors on Thursday night are expected to approve Envision's plans to build 35 homes on the site.

Lynch, citing the structure as a safety hazard, has supported demolishing the building as soon as possible. "It is in horrible shape," Lynch recently told Warminster supervisors. "We're afraid young people, or whoever is doing this, are going to be injured."

On Tuesday night, school director Steve Adams said the Hart School is in Lynch's neighborhood and "This wasn't an easy decision for her. We hope we came to the best and most reasonable decision for everybody involved."

The board filled three assistant principal vacancies Tuesday night at McDonald and Willow Dale elementary schools and William Tennent High School.

Jennifer Frantz, an elementary school teacher in the Central Bucks School District for 11 years, will work at McDonald. Patrick Golderer, an administrator at MaST Community Charter School in Philadelphia for 14 years, is headed to Tennent. Andrew Drago becomes the new assistant principal at Willow Dale. Drago spent nine years in the Pennridge School District as an instrumental music teacher and the coordinator of its music program.

"This has been an extremely great night," Lynch said. "We know you'll do a great job for the Centennial School District."