

Bulletin Board

Fall 2013

New Superintendent Excited About Being in Alpine County

By Patrick Traynor, Ph.D

I am excited to be serving as Alpine County Superintendent of Schools for the years to come. Being an avid skier, loving the outdoors, particularly the Sierra Nevada's, and spending much time with my family in my parents' home in South Lake Tahoe, Alpine County is a fantastic location for me. My two sons, Patrick and Christopher, have already enjoyed their visits with me over the summer.

In my 23 years of experience prior to coming to Alpine County, I have served in the educational arena in a variety of capacities. I have been a High School Science Teacher, Elementary School Teaching Vice-Principal, Elementary School Principal, Middle School Principal, Director of Language Support Services for English Learners, Director of Assessment, Evaluation, and Middle School Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment and Accountability, and most recently, California Department of Education's Director of Assessment Development and Administration. I am delighted to bring my skills as an educational

leader to Alpine County Schools and partner with our community to ensure our children's success.

Over the next several years, California public schools, along with 46 other states, will be implementing a new set of common stan-



dards nationwide in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Student learning will also be tested using an entirely new, online, assessment system to test them on these standards. The standards are available online at the California Department of Education's website (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>). New standards in Science have also been adopted by the State Board of Education earlier this month, and new History-Social Science will also follow in the near future.

Our teachers are already planning for the new standards, which will be fully implemented in the 2014-15 School year. They have 10

multi-hour online professional development modules available from the California Department of Education and the district and county have provided a Common Core State Standards Implementation Plan that includes completing these modules. The in depth understanding of the new standards gained from this professional development will place our teachers in front as the new standards are implemented nationwide. Our teachers are also accessing online tools to help them readily check their student's understanding of key concepts related to the standards.

As your Superintendent, I will do my best to connect with each and every one you. I plan on being highly visible on school premises and within the community. Whether you have a student or not in the District, please know my door is always open and I welcome your input.

Please feel free to stop in or call to make an appointment to discuss any concerns, suggestions, or simply to say hello!

Special Place for Alpine County's Young Children by Tracy Ikemire

The Alpine Early Learning Center is a small and lovely preschool nestled among the pine trees in Woodfords, California. Our Early Childhood program provides a nurturing foundation for the growing child in a loving and home-like environment. We honor the young child by nourishing the mind and the senses through a life-enriching, caring environment. The children learn through imitation and purposeful play, storytelling, practical and artistic activities. Learning in our preschool fosters a strong sense of self and a relationship to the world, as well as capacities for creative thinking and healthy movement. Our teachers all hold an Early Childhood Teacher permit and have many years of experience working with young children. Our Site Supervisor/Teacher has extensive experience in early childhood education as well as elementary school aged children. She holds an Early Childhood Teacher Permit, a California Multiple Subject Teacher Permit, and is in the processes of completing her Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Training.



Our preschool is open to children ages 3 - 6 years old, five days per week, from 10:30 to 3:00 with bus service available in Markleeville & Woodfords. We are located just past the junction of Hwy 88 & Hwy 89 on Diamond Valley Road. In many cases free or reduced tuition is available for families living or working in California through the California State Preschool Program. Please Contact the Site Supervisor Tracy Ikemire for more information and to schedule a tour. 530-694-2230 X 285.

Change by Laura Parks, Principal

Perhaps you have heard someone say to you something like this: The only thing constant in life is Change. (Francois de La Rochefoucault). And isn't that what makes life exciting?! Last year students and staff experienced much change and we will continue to this year with a new Superintendent joining us! Here are some of the positive considerations to hold on to while experiencing the constancy of change. Change allows you to:

Reevaluate your priorities and put what matters most first in your life.

Optimize the opportunity to be flexible and creative.

Strengthen the areas that need to remain the same...and lay aside practices that are cumbersome or lacking purpose.

I personally embrace the notion of change. For me it is exciting and motivating. I hope you will join me in this positive attitude as we experience more changes here in Alpine County!



School Board Highlights by Terrie Peets

June, 2013 – Dr. Fontana thanked the board and staff for her wonderful years of service with both the District and County noting the smooth transition for Dr. Patrick Traynor effective July 2013. New employees were approved for the Administrative Assistant to the Principal, the Academic Career & Personal/Social Development Counselor and for Temporary Technology Support. The 2013-2014 District budget documents were presented in a public hearing and then approved. Other items approved included: 1) Resolution to transfer funds to the Deferred Maintenance Fund; 2) 2013-14 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part I, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014; 3) No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Local Educational Agency Five-Year Plan; 4) Resolution authorizing District agents for the California Department of Education; 5) Resolution authorizing participation in the Self Insured Schools of California Liability and Property System; 6) Douglas County School District Interstate Attendance Annual Agreement; and 7) Reductions in Bus Driver/Maintenance/Custodian hours. Under the County Board meeting it was noted that the Early Learning Center was closed during the summer and Dr. Fontana shared information about personnel changes, historical contributions from Alpine First 5, and anticipated budget amounts. The County budgets were opened in a public hearing and then approved for the 2013-2014 school year. Other Board approved items included: 1) 2013-2014 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part 1, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013; 2) Resolution for apportionment of Forest Reserve Receipts for Superintendent of Schools; 3) Resolution authorizing participation in the Self Insured Schools of California Liability and Property system; and 4) Authorized County agents for 2013-2014.

July, 2013 – Under the District meeting, a discussion of benefit plan choices with Central Valley Trust were approved with no changes from the previous year.

August, 2013 – The District Board accepted the retirement of the Business Manager effective December 31, 2013, the request from the Alpine County Parents' Club for fundraisers at Diamond Valley Elementary School, and a request to suspend water and sewer service at the Bear Valley School facility.

September, 2013 – The District Board held a public hearing for the ACUSD Plan for Common Core State Standards Implementation funds, the employment of a Temporary After School Program Tutor, the employment of a Technology Support position, a resolution for the designation of an Impact Aid representative, and a resolution for adopting the GANN Limit, normal with no increase to limit pursuant to Government Code 7902.1. Additionally, the Board approved the Unaudited Actuals, Unrestricted and Restricted Financial Reports. Under the County meeting, they held a public hearing for the ACOE Plan for Common Core State Standards Implementation funds, a resolution for adopting the GANN Limit, normal with no increase to limit pursuant to Government Code 7902.1, and the approval of the Unaudited Actuals, Unrestricted and Restricted Financial Reports.

Future Board Meeting Dates

November 12, 2013 -- District Meeting Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. with General Open Session at 6:00 p.m. followed by the County Meeting in the Admin. Annex Building and the Bear Valley Library

December 10, 2013 -- District Meeting Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. with General Open Session at 6:00 p.m. followed by the County Meeting in the Admin. Annex Building

**Alpine County Unified
School District**

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Vision

**All students are engaged and
successful.**

Mission

**We provide a safe and
engaging learning
environment**



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