



New year brings main office changes

By Carson Metcalf

Change is coming to the administrative team at G. Ray Bodley High School. On January 30, current Fulton Junior High School Principal Mrs. Donna Parkhurst will move up to the high school to become principal. In doing so, she will become the fourth principal change at the high school in the last ten years. Current GRB Principal Mr. Buchanan will be joining Mr. Greene as an assistant principal, while Mrs. Stuetz moves to the Fulton Junior High School as assistant principal. These changes were recently recommended by Superintendent of Schools, Mr. William Lynch, and approved by the Fulton Board of Education on Tuesday, January 3.

This week, Mr. Lynch was kind enough to speak with *RaiderNet Daily* concerning these changes, which took many by surprise when they were informed on Wednesday, January 4.

On the basic question of why all of this is happening, Mr. Lynch began by saying, "For a number of years I've had very clear directions as to what we are looking for in terms of improved outcomes for our students." He also said that, "the high school, while it has improved in some regards, we still struggled with where we were putting our systems in place." Mr. Lynch added, "I did not believe that we were making the pace of change and the depth of change that I was looking for."

When asked about any specific goals not reached at the high school under Mr. Buchanan's leadership, Mr. Lynch responded by pin-pointing two areas that continuously need to be improved, those being "building systems" and "blended transitions," such as those students face within and going to the junior high school and high school. Regarding the school in general, he went on to say, "I think that we can be overall performing better than where we are right now."

In terms of where Mr. Buchanan stood in the decision of his reassignment and reas-

signments of other administrative staff, Mr. Lynch took sole responsibility for the move, saying firmly, "How this all ended up was my decision, and with the support of the



Fulton City School District Superintendent of Schools, Mr. William Lynch. (file photo)

Board."

Mr. Lynch was also able to clear up some confusion based on recent reports in the media and his own letter to parents about Mr. Buchanan becoming "secondary assistant principal." Lynch explained that this simply means that Mr. Buchanan will be working at the secondary level in terms of the entire District, and has nothing to do with seniority.

On the subject of the possibility of one of

assistant principal up to Mr. Buchanan's position, looking within the District for a new administrator, or looking outside the District for someone new. Regarding his decision, Mr. Lynch noted, "I thought long and hard about it and had conversations with the Board of Education with regards to my thoughts and the directions that I wanted to go." He noted confidently that this was not, "something the Board told me to do," adding, "I looked at the team of people we had and I really thought that we had the capable people, capable administrators and leaders, and it was just a matter of reassigning the mix of where people were."

Mr. Lynch did not mention any other considered candidates for the position, stating, "Mrs. Parkhurst is the person that I went to after thinking through a number of options."

He went on to praise the administrative team while reemphasizing the need for change, saying, "I think the people that we have from Mr. Lanigan [soon-to-be Junior High School principal and current assistant principal] to Mr. Buchanan, Mrs. Stuetz and Mr. Greene, they have done a very good job and I think it's just a matter of where we can reassign people to keep working. It's all about learning and growing."

One of the things that has undoubtedly been talked about in terms of moving Mrs. Parkhurst up to being high school principal is the unprecedented timeframe in which this change is being implemented; the beginning of the second semester of the school year. Mr. Lynch said that waiting until the end of the year, "compromises where we'll be next year." He added, "If you want to come in

**"How this all ended up was my decision, and with the support of the Board."
Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Lynch**

the assistant principals taking over for Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Lynch laid out the "three options" he had, being either moving an as-

and start to engage, assess all the stakeholders, students, faculty, parents, and commu
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Opinion

Friend or foe, rich or poor: all deserve respect

By Madeline Clark



You can't please all of the people all of the time. Not everybody is going to like you, no matter what you do; sometimes you just don't connect with people.

This piece of common sense keeps us level headed and our egos at equilibrium, but just

because you don't get along with someone that doesn't mean they don't deserve the same amount of respect as the next person. You may abhor another person's viewpoints, but that is no excuse for treating them like less of a person. When you get right down to it, I think you will find that we are all in the same boat and we all have feelings.

The years of a teenager are an experience in themselves. Nowhere else in life will you find first loves, turmoil and good old drama. Adolescent years are also a time of mental development, especially

“Perhaps the banker and the poverty-stricken farmer may never “do brunch,” but they both share the same atmosphere and the same oceans. One may have more money than the other, but they are both emotional creatures...”

egotistical growth. Teenagers are universally known as “know-it-alls,” and in certain cases this relatively broad label can be true. How many times have you met a person who has had a big ego? A person who treats everyone else as inferior can be irritating, to say the least. It seems as though they feel that they are the end-all and be-all, and everyone else is along for the ride.

What is the reasoning behind their thinking? Is it because of their grades, social status, money, connections? When it comes to the logical reasoning of why someone is pompous, things can get tricky. As for myself, I am completely dumbfounded as to how anyone could think they are better than everybody else. We are all humans and we all feel. What makes a banker on Wall Street superior to a

third world farmer? Are they not both men with emotions and minds? Are they not both bound to the same earthly limitations? With these questions in mind, the idea that you are better than anybody else is moot.

Perhaps the banker and the poverty-stricken farmer may never “do brunch,” but they both share the same atmosphere and the same oceans. One may have more money than the other, but they are both emotional creatures, and to treat one superior to the other is simply confusing. So the next time you feel better than someone else, or meet said people, take a moment to think. It is this superiority complex that gets people into trouble. It is the opponent to the dream of universal peace. And honestly, if you take away our materialistic possessions and strip us down to the bone, I think you will find that we are all connected. Indeed, we are all in the same boat

Bizarre News of the Day:

Let's hope she wasn't smiling

An Australian woman has told how she got up in the middle of the night to find a saltwater crocodile in her living room. Jo Dodd got up to investigate when her dog started barking and found herself face-to-face with the 5-foot-6 croc. “Our dog was outside the bedroom door barking loudly,” said Ms. Dodd, 42, who lives in Darwin.

“I opened the sliding door and saw the crocodile right outside the door. It is pretty full-on when there is a crocodile in your lounge room - I nearly died.” Ms. Dodd woke up her husband, Micko Srbinovska, 42, who grabbed his guitar to fend off the ‘salty’ as he edged towards the phone.

He called the local Crocodile Management Unit who sent out female crocodile catcher Dani Best to remove the angry reptile. Ms. Dodd added: “It was prehistoric. The hissing sounded like a vampire. Then it went into its death rolls - the power of this thing was just phenomenal. She just jumped on top of it, taped up its snout, back and front legs.”

The crocodile was a suspected escapee from the nearby Darwin Crocodile Farm.

By Morgan Firenze



Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

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Decision was made to move forward now

(from page 1)

nity as to where we are and where we want to be getting to, if we wait and do something in June it will be next October or November by the time we start that conversation. By doing this in January, which is obviously a more abrupt time, there is no question at all about it, I expect that those conversations are going to start happening in the spring through the end of the school year.”

Along with the timeframe of the implementation of the noted changes, Mr. Lynch commented on his choice not to make the situation public to parents, students, staff or the community until after the final decision was made. Mr. Lynch said, “It’s something I thought through, I discussed with the Board.”

He mentioned that he has “the authority and the responsibility to reorganize the District and assignments of any and all staff as deemed necessary for outcomes of students,” stipulations that sit both in Board Policy and in Mr. Lynch’s contract. The Superintendent said that since he had already made his mind up, he would rather move forward with the decision, rather than present the situation to people outside the realm of administrative decision-making. He then reaffirmed his decision, saying, “I firmly believe that a change had to happen.” He then mentioned his goal for the High School is, “to get everybody [students] to the stage [for graduation].”

Currently, New York State identifies G. Ray Bodley as a school “in good standing,” while Fulton Junior High School is currently identified as a school “in need of improvement.” Without reading further into these statuses, it may be easy to criticize these administrative changes, to move a principal from a school in need of improvement to one in good standing with the Education Department. Mr. Lynch noted that the high school remains on a “watch list,” and the junior high school landed on the “in need of improvement” list because of a subpopulation of students, those with disabilities. Speaking about the entire District, Mr. Lynch commented, “[Previously] I said this when we all came off the accountability list...while we’re off the list, we are all precariously close to the benchmark, which means we are all just over the line, and we need to get way

above the line.” This seems to be one of the objectives behind the reassignments in administration.

The conversation then shifted to another important statistic for the high school, the graduation rate. In the 2008-2009 school year, 73% of the 2005 cohort (students who entered the high school in 2005) graduated with a Regents or Local diploma by August 2009. This was the school year before Mr. Buchanan became principal. Mr. Buchanan’s first year, 2009-2010, brought with it graduation rate of 80% for students in the 2006 cohort earning a Regents or Local diploma by August 2010. Data for 2011 graduation has not yet been made available to the public by the Education Department.

This is only one indicator in terms of drawing any sort of correlation between the leadership at the high school and performance of the students, which one might think is a

say to a student who is not optimistic about the principal change, or even a staff member who is reluctant to again be working under new leadership, Lynch supplied an indirect yet progressive response. The Fulton Superintendent let it be known that this move is “a long-term decision for us,” adding, “It’s a matter of making the high school a school of excellence, and to support outcomes for all of our students.”

He continued, saying, “People may not be fans of Mrs. Parkhurst for a lot of reasons, depending upon whose doing that was it takes a while to get the systems in place and get things working, and to deal with issues.” Mr. Lynch went on to talk about a “community that reflects the perspectives of everybody.” He said, “I think students should have a voice [in which] they get to offer perspective.” Mr. Lynch also advised people to judge the leadership over time, based on personal

“It’s a matter of making the high school a school of excellence, and to support outcomes for all of our students.”
Superintendent of Schools Mr. Lynch

positive reflection of the administration at GRB. However, Mr. Lynch vehemently explained his thoughts on the graduation rates of the last few years, saying, “Am I glad it’s [the graduation rate] 80 [percent]? I’m glad it’s not 70 [percent]. But is 80 [percent] something to be proud of? No.”

He added that, “We need to get ourselves up higher.” Mr. Lynch also spoke about the fact that the District is “holding on to kids.” He noted that this number has “changed dramatically,” and explained the positive impact that he believes the Advisory program had on this figure, something done away with beginning with this, the 2011-2012, school year, for budgetary reasons.

After talking about all of the data, statistics, and logistics behind Mr. Lynch’s ultimate decision, we moved on and discussed our new High School leader, Mrs. Parkhurst.

Public opinion is definitely mixed in terms of students and their views of Mrs. Parkhurst, who they likely had as principal at the Junior High School, and possibly even at the elementary level. When asked what he would

experiences.

Mr. Lynch praised Bodley’s incoming principal overall, saying Mrs. Parkhurst “has demonstrated over the years that she has been a successful leader in a number of different settings.” In terms of what to expect, he added, “it takes a little while for people to come in and make changes. We’re not looking for Mrs. Parkhurst to come here and make abrupt changes. This is all about where we are now and where we need to be as we go into the future.”

Not everyone may agree with Mr. Lynch’s decision, but ultimately it was his to make. For seniors it may not seem like a big deal, having only a few months left here. However, for everyone else, including future students of GRB, every one is hoping that this is the right decision for the future of G. Ray Bodley High School and the Fulton City School District. But as with everything, only time will tell. (*RaiderNet Daily wishes to thank Mr. Lynch for taking the time to discuss this important matter so that we could provide the information to our readers*)

There's No Day Like A SNOW DAY!



Last Friday brought the first snow day of the year when the type of weather Fultonians have come to expect in January finally made a visit. Despite the snow and cold, a few Bodleyans braved the conditions and got outside, including juniors Julia Fisch, left, and Vanessa Langdon in the bottom photo, who pitched in to shovel Julia's driveway.

RND reader Joe McDermott sent us the interesting top picture of his dog, the aptly named Blizzard, nearly buried in the snow in his back yard. Even snow haters might find the beauty in the small picture above of Fulton trees transformed into a winter wonderland. Today's forecast calls for rain, but snow will make a fast return tomorrow.

Sports

The Great Outdoors

Take care of gear and it will take care of you

By Daniel Summerville

Despite the fact that it is mid-January in Central New York, we have yet to feel the true force of winter. With this lack of snow, quite a few hunters are leaving their tree stands in the woods, planning on getting them if there is an imminent snow storm.

What is the harm in leaving a tree stand out over a mild winter like this? It would save time setting it up next fall. While this train of thought may hold some water, it is most likely a good idea to take the stands down and put them away until fall.

Many stands nowadays are labeled as "All season," meaning that they should be safe to leave out all year. They will last longer than



older stands before starting to rust, but the truth is that they will rust eventually. Unless someone is going to use a tree stand to hunt small game from this winter, it should not be left up. By taking care of your tree stand, it will last much longer. Once a tree stand starts to rust, there is little that can be done to save it. Rust weakens the metal of the stand, and no one wants to be spending any time in a weak stand. While it may be safe to leave stands out all year, it is not worth the risk unless it is going to be used in the winter months.

The seats on tree stands are the most vulnerable.

Tree stands are often hard to store, but anyone who has a shed or barn should be able to find enough room to store one of their most important hunting implements. Most hunting gear is only rated for a few years of use, but with the proper care and protection gear can last much longer than that. Not many people like spending hundreds of dollars every season on new gear, and by taking care of what they have they do not have to.

Raiders wrestle to top of Bradshaw Tournament

Paced by the pinning power of four individual champions, the Fulton wrestling team claimed first place honors on Saturday at the Bradshaw Tournament in Canandaigua. The Raiders rolled up a first place total of 215.5 points with the host side second at 187.5. Small school state ranked North Rose-Wolcott claimed third at 174.5 in the 18 team gathering while Chenango Forks (132) and Gates-Chili (104) rounded out the top five.

Four different Raiders pinned their way to championship status as Brandon Hill claimed the 120 pound title with a pin in 2:49 while Adam Wallace took 3:55 to earn top honors at 138. Devon Viscome wasted little time at 152 with a pin in 1:56 and Nick Woodworth nailed down a pin in 2:59 to win the 170 pound weight class.

Second place efforts were turned in by Mitch Woodworth at 99 and 187 pounder Derek Owen, who lost a tough 2-0 decision at 182

pounds.

In the consolation round Fulton notched a pair of third place finishes as Austin Whitney and Thomas Hill scored winning decisions at 106 and 113 respectively. Brennan Roberge won the fifth place wrestle-off at 285 to add points to Fulton's victorious total.

The Raiders will be back in action on Wednesday, playing host to Cortland as a final tune-up to this weekend's annual showdown at the Section 3 Duals. This year's event will take place at Cicero-North Syracuse High School with the opening rounds starting at 9 am. Looming ahead is a potential rematch between Fulton and Phoenix following last week's exciting 36-34 Raider triumph.

This week in Raider Sports

Today: Hockey @ Clinton (4:30).

Wed. Jan. 18: Bowling vs. Chittenango @ Mattydale (3:30); Wrestling vs. Cortland (6 pm).

Fri. Jan. 20: Girls Bball vs. Chittenango (JV-5:30/V-7 pm); Boys Bball @ Chittenango (JV-5/V-6:30); Indoor track @ OCC (4:30); Hockey @ Whitesboro (7:30).

Sat. Jan. 21: Wrestling @ Section 3 Duals (C-NS starting @ 9 am).

Tues. Jan. 24: Girls Bball vs. Cortland (JV-5:40/V-7); Hockey @ Skaneateles (7 pm).

Wed. Jan. 25: Bowling vs. Bishop Grimes @ Mattydale (3:30); Wrestling vs. ES-M (6 pm).



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Senior personalization deadline
is Friday, January 20

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What were your plans for over the three day weekend?



"I am going to plan my wedding!"

Miss Santy



"Homework."

Amanda Deavers



"I have to go to a volleyball tournament."

Maureen McCann



"I'm writing a six-page paper for participation in government."

Dylan Holden

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with rain.

43°

Average: 31°
Record: 58° (1990)

Tonight:



Partly cloudy.

22°

Average: 15°
Record: -16° (1965)

Tomorrow:



Cloudy with snow.

28°

Average: 31°
Record: 61° (1973)

GRB senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.