Written by Debbie Gregory Tuesday, May 7, 2013



Four people are leaving the Macon County School System at the end of this school term.

Charles Biles and Patricia Ferguson are retiring from the Superintendent's Office and Bobby Bransford and Linda Smith are retiring from their principal positions.

"We've got two people from the Superintendent's office that will be retiring this year," said Director of Schools Margaret Oldham. "They are Mr. Charles Biles and he has 49 years of experience and the other is Mrs. Patricia Ferguson, who will be leaving the Macon County School System as the Technology Coordinator. She has been here for 38 years."

Oldham says these positions will be advertised after everything is finalized on Thursday, May 9. "We will start advertising that following Monday, May 13, for these positions." "Also leaving the school system and retiring are Mr. Bobby Bransford and Mrs. Linda Smith," continued Oldham. "Mr. Bransford has been in the school system for 40 years and he is leaving his position as principal at Macon County Junior High School. Mrs. Smith has been in the school system for 16 years and she is leaving her position as principal at Fairlane Elementary."

These positions will also be advertised and interviewed for. The administration is hoping to have someone in place by the first couple of weeks in June so they can train under these people and find out exactly what their jobs entail.

"These four people will be very much missed because they have been sort of like legends in Macon County with their teaching experience as teachers, principals, and coaches," said Director Oldham. "And it is my understanding that Mrs. Smith even played basketball for Red

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Boiling Springs High School."

Director Oldham said that it's really hard to lose good administrators like these because they have done so much for the county. "Mr. Biles in his position, has been attendance coordinator, he's our truancy officer for the school system, and he does a lot of extra things like keeping up with sick leave for certified employees, vacation for certified employees, and a lot of other little things that he has does that a lot of people really don't know about." She said that Patricia has done a tremendous job with technology in the Macon County School System. "I would put Macon County at the top as far as having the best technology of any of the surrounding counties," the director said.

"Of course, Mr. Bransford has had a great school at Macon County Junior High and Mrs. Smith has been extraordinary at Fairlane, with the younger students." "I came into this school system in November of 2010 and I lived in Trousdale County, but this whole community and this school system have been so nice and easy to work with," said Oldham. "Mr. Biles was sort of my helper when I came into this job as Director of Schools and I was able to talk with him and confide in him, he would give me advise and we have worked so well together. Patricia has always helped with anything I have asked her to do for me and she always been cooperative and very friendly and nice."

"As principals I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Bransford and we have worked very well together. He is a hard worker and wanted his school to be the best. Mrs. Smith has a great school at Fairlane with the little ones and she has a great faculty. She is a true leader, who is good with her faculty as well as the children."

Oldham says the one thing that impressed her more than anything about Mrs. Smith, was one day when school was starting, she was over there early in the morning at 7:00 a.m. "This little boy started crying and got upset and Mrs. Smith just took him and put him in her lap and held him until he calmed down," said Mrs. Oldham. "She told him if he needed anything to let her know and that was very compassionate to me."

"I hate for all these people to leave, and I think everybody in the school system will agree with me that they are going to be very hard to replace. Whoever gets these jobs, they have got very big footsteps to walk in," the director said in closing.

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