



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

“Making sure that all kids are successful and have continued growth” is a large part of new Chase County Schools Elementary Principal Susan Stewart’s job.

Hired in May, Stewart began meeting teachers at the school last week. Her goal this next year is “student growth in academics and the essentials of learning—reading, writing and math.”

Stewart, who prefers to be called Susie, said her first position as a principal is a challenge “and I like a challenge.”

Prior to moving to Imperial from Friend, she was a grade 4-6 teacher with the McCool Junction School in eastern Nebraska, where she also was the school’s curriculum and assessment director.

She wants to work for continuous school improvement, building strong, positive relationships with the students, teachers and the community at large, and to be an advocate and spokesperson for the students and school.

A native of Tobias, where her parents still reside, Stewart graduated from Meridian High School in 1981.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Doane College in 1993, then taught at St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Beatrice, grades 4-6, from 1994-98.

From 1998-2010 she taught in the Friend Public School system as a Title I teacher, curriculum coordinator for elementary social studies, was a second grade teacher and headed the high ability after-school program.

She taught at McCool Junction Public School beginning in 2010, then earned her Master’s of Education degree in educational leadership from Doane College in 2012.

Stewart was also a volleyball coach at Friend Public School. She played volleyball in high school and has enjoyed womens’ league volleyball for 30 years. She’s excited about the upcoming Longhorn season. “I plan to be a spectator. I definitely will go watch and encourage” the team.

Stewart also enjoys riding her bicycle, reading and being around children.

She plans to make daily walk-throughs in the elementary classrooms this next year, saying she’ll miss being in the classroom with the children.

Stewart’s husband Rex is a roofer and construction worker, with his own company, Rex’s Roofing.

The couple has three grown sons—Thane, 29, of Kearney; Ty, 28, of Western, and Christopher, 25, of Lincoln.