

By Jan Schultz **The Imperial Republican**

Four of the five full-time teacher vacancies at Chase County Schools were filled at meetings of the school board in the past two weeks.

Three were hired at the March 25 board retreat meeting and another added to the staff at this week's monthly meeting Tuesday.

Hirings completed will fill the vacated positions of Al Zuege, Lynn Rinehart, Beth Larson and Sandy Silvester.

There will be some shifting of duties to fill Zuege's social studies position, as Carl Zuege will take over Al Zuege's classes, which currently include history, government and diversified occupations.

Hired to teach Carl Zuege's English classes was Alexandria Rettele of Benkelman, who is currently student teaching at CCS.

Rettele will graduate this May from the University of Nebraska-Kearney with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in grade 7-12 history and English education.

She acquired other field experience the past year at Pleasanton High School, where she assisted her cooperating teacher with lessons, grading, planning and presented lessons.

She also served as a volunteer summer school aid last year in Benkelman.

Another first-year teacher, Jeffrey Gleisberg of Curtis, was hired to fill Lynn Rinehart's industrial arts teaching position.

After earning an Associate of Applied Science Degree in building construction technology from Southeast Community College-Beatrice in 2010, he pursued a bachelor's degree and will graduate this May from Chadron State College. His Bachelor of Science Degree has an emphasis in secondary design and technology education.

He also has work experience in the plumbing, electrical and construction fields in Curtis and Kearney.

Stephanie Malcolm of Wood Heights, Mo., will assume the fifth grade teaching position of Sandy Silvester.

She was a fourth grade teacher from 2009-13 at Snowy Range Academy in Laramie, Wyo.

From 2006-08, she taught second and fourth grade at Little Snake River Valley School in Baggs, Wyo. Previous to that, from 2002-06, she was a K-12 substitute teacher in the Hitchcock County Unified, Wauneta/Palisade and Southwest school systems.

She has teaching credentials in both Nebraska and Wyoming.

Malcolm also worked as regional coordinator for the Nebraska Community Builders Program in southwest Nebraska for about half a year in 2001-02.

She earned a Masters of Education in elementary curriculum and instruction from Chadron State College in 2012.

Her Bachelor's of Science Degree in K-8 elementary education was also earned at Chadron in 2005.

Mercedes Hauxwell will replace Beth Larson as the school's grade 7-12 Spanish teacher.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in psychology and Spanish from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and taught 10 years in the Bethune, Colo., Public School System (1992-2007). She taught Spanish, ELL, health/PE, math and coached at Bethune.

Her coaching experience includes 10-plus years with junior high/high school volleyball, basketball and track.

Since moving to Imperial with husband, Troy, and family, she taught preschool a year at Rainbow Promise Preschool (2012-13). She has also been a substitute teacher and has been an assistant track coach.

While she does not currently hold a Nebraska teaching certificate, she will be working on that certification and has two years to complete it, said Supt. Brad Schoeppey.

Principal Mike Sorensen noted that after a month of advertising, CCS has not received one application for the 7-12 family consumer science teaching position of Cathy Hanna, who resigned last month.

That position is the only teaching slot left to fill for 2014-15, Schoeppey said.

Girls' coach resigns

At Tuesday's meeting, the board also accepted the resignation from Nancy Sorensen as high school girls' head basketball coach.

Sorensen has been the girls' team head coach the past four seasons.

In her letter, Sorensen said her reason for resigning is to attend to her classroom teaching responsibilities and to be there for her family.

On a question from board members, Principal Mike Sorensen indicated there is someone on staff now willing to assume the coaching position.

In other action at Tuesday's board meeting, the TeamMates mentoring program will be offered at CCS in the 2014-15 school year, a federal school breakfast program will also be provided and classified employees were given pay raises.

Those agenda items and more will be explained further in a story next week.