



PRESS RELEASE

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TISD ANNOUNCES KEY STAFF CHANGES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, June 29, 2010, called meeting, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees announced key staff changes and assignments effective July 1, 2010.

AUTUMN THOMAS, Deputy Superintendent, will be moving the District forward by concentrating her efforts on Curriculum, Technology and Elementary Campuses. She will continue to serve as Second-In-Command of the District but will focus her energies on guiding TISD to the next level in the instructional area.

Thomas will further improve the TISD Professional Development program by creating an overall comprehensive plan which will allow for professional learning communities that enhance the curriculum and instructional alignment for the new state assessments. Additionally, she will lead the District in integrating instruction with technology and developing further training for special needs students within the district.

Thomas joined the Tiger Family in 1997 as Personnel Director. She then moved into the position of Director of Human Resources from 1998 - 2004 and Associate Superintendent beginning in 2005. In 2009, Thomas was appointed as Deputy Superintendent. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from University of North Texas and a Master of Science in Business Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

KEN REESE, Chief Operating Officer, will take the helm of the Human Resources Department in addition to his duties overseeing the Business and Support Operations of the District. Since joining the Tiger Family in February 2008, he has proven to be effective and efficient in overseeing daily support operations which include: Child Nutrition, Special Events, Purchasing, Police, Risk Management, Children's Services, Transportation, Construction and Maintenance.

Reese brought to TISD thirteen years of experience in Corporate Operations with WalMart Stores, Inc. and CP Lotus SuperCenters. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies from Texas A&M University – Texarkana and is currently working on his Master of Science in Education Administration through Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

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RONNIE THOMPSON will take on the role of Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services & CATE in order to further align technology with curriculum and expand the CATE programs so that they best meet the needs of our students. The future of technology in schools is here and TISD feels that it is imperative to stay ahead of the technological curve by reviewing, developing and implementing those services that will lead the District into the next century. Thompson will now oversee the Technology and Textbooks Department, as well as Campus Instructional Technology Specialists.

Thompson joined the Tiger Family in 1999 as a Marketing Education Teacher at Texas High School. He became Assistant Principal of Texas High School in 2002 and then moved into the Executive Director of School Improvement position in 2004. In 2007, Thompson was named Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from Texas A&M University – College Station, a Master of Science in Education Administration and is currently working toward a Doctorate in Science & Technology Education from Curtin University.

SKYE DUCKETT will now serve TISD as the Director of Human Resources & Chief People Officer. She has developed through the ranks of Human Resources and will bring eight years of Human Resource experience to the position.

Duckett began with TISD in 2003 as Administrative Secretary/Assistant. She was named Human Resources Specialist in 2006 and then Coordinator of Human Resources in 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

JENNIFER CROSS will assume the position of Principal for Highland Park Elementary School. With fourteen years of experience in the Tiger Family, she brings to the position enthusiasm and drive that will continue the level of excellence for the Highland Park Elementary campus.

Her career with TISD began in 1996 as a 5th/6th Grade Teacher for Westlawn Elementary School. She moved to a 3rd Grade teaching position at Highland Park Elementary School in 2002 and then on to Dunbar Elementary School in 2006. Cross was named a TISD Administrative Intern in 2009, honing her skills at Spring Lake Park Elementary School. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Ouachita Baptist University, a Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

ANNE SLADE will take her fifteen years of educational experience into the role of Assistant Principal for Spring Lake Elementary School.

She began her career with the Tiger Family in 2002 as a Special Education Teacher for Theron Jones Early Literacy Center and Dunbar Elementary School. Slade was selected as a TISD Administrative Intern in 2007

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and has served in that capacity, along with the role of Curriculum Coach, for Dunbar Elementary School during the past three years. She has a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, a Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

KASSIE WATSON, current Administrative Intern & Curriculum Coach for Westlawn Elementary School, will take on the position of Assistant Principal at Dunbar Elementary School.

With four years under her belt in the educational field, Watson brought her talents to TISD in 2005 as a Reading Specialist for Westlawn Elementary School. In 2007, she was selected as a TISD Administrative Intern & Curriculum Coach and has served that role well for the past three years. Watson holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

RAE ANN PATTY will move her talents from Highland Park Elementary School to Instructional Services as Lead Coordinator of PK-5 with a focus area in Language Arts. She will also lead the District through Response to Intervention (RTI) support, Elementary CSCOPE Curriculum Implementation, Direct Reading and several other key district-wide instructional programs.

Patty's career with the Tiger Family began in 1997 as a Special Education Teacher at Kennedy Elementary School and then as a 4th Grade Teacher at Highland Park Elementary School in 1991. Following a move to Friendswood ISD, she returned to Texarkana in 2003 and resumed her teaching position at Highland Park Elementary School through 2005. Beginning in 2005, Patty served as Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum for School Improvement and then assumed the role of 8th Grade Assistant Principal for Texas Middle School in 2008. Last year, she was named Principal of Highland Park Elementary School and has done a phenomenal job in continuing the Exemplary level of the campus.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

SUSAN PRIDE brings her many years of experience to the task of Coordinator/Teacher for the Gifted & Talented Program at TISD.

She became a member of the Tiger Family in 1998 as Director of Instructional Technology. As the years moved forward, Pride added additional hats to her position by overseeing the GT Program from 2002 to 2007 and Library Services from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, she served as the TISD Coordinator of Media/Library Services and Gifted Education and then in 2007 moved to the position of Coordinator of Media Technology and Special Projects

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at Texas Middle School. Her twelve years of combined experience in Instructional Technology, Library Science and the GT program creates a wealth of knowledge in the GT program and for the students of the District. Pride has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southern Arkansas University and a Master of Science in Education from Henderson State University.

DR. SANDRA AUSTIN will now serve the District as Coordinator of Elementary Library Services/Secondary Advisor. She brings to her new role a passion for Library Science and over 28 years of experience.

Dr. Austin became a member of the Tiger Family in 1992 as Librarian for Texas High School. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly and diligently in developing the THS library to best serve the students. Austin has a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts in French Literature from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, and a Master of Library Science and a Doctorate in Library Science from Texas Woman's University.

MONICA NOVOSAD, will take her talents to a district leadership level by moving into the position of Instructional Technology Specialist. She will serve the Nash Elementary School, Morriss Elementary School and Theron Jones Early Literacy Center campuses.

Monica came on board with TISD in 2005 as a Special Education Teacher at Nash Elementary School. In 2006, she served as a 4th Grade Teacher at that campus and then was selected a TISD Administrative Intern in 2007. She remained with Nash Elementary until 2009 followed by a move to Spring Lake Park Elementary School as an Administrative Intern allowing her to garner more administrative experience with a new campus. Novosad holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Science in Education Administration from Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

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