

District taps three principals for new schools

Three principals have been appointed to head the district's new elementary schools, which are slated to open this fall.

Sandy Mefford, currently principal at Linlee, will move to Sandersville Elementary.

"Not a lot of people get the opportunity to close an old school and open a new facility," said Mefford, who has been with the district for 14 years. "This is a wonderful opportunity to move an already great school into a new facility that will allow our students to reach their potential."

Mefford, who has two sons, received her bachelor's in elementary education from Lincoln Memorial University and her master's in elementary education and principal certification from Eastern Kentucky University.

Vickie Burke, now principal at Julia R. Ewan, will take the reins at Liberty Elementary.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to be part of a school that will be known for excellence in student achievement," she said. "My goal is to make Liberty Elementary one of the top five elementary schools in the district."

She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Spalding College and her master's in elementary education and principal certification from the University of Kentucky.

Burke, who has two adult children who graduated from Tates Creek High, has been with the district for 22 years and has served as a principal for nine years.

Yvonne Peace, the professional staff assistant at Ashland Elementary School, will become principal at William Wells Brown Elementary.

A second-generation educator, she hopes to forge a strong relationship between the school and the community it will serve. One of her first goals is to give a positive identity to the school.

"I hope the students are proud to come to school every day where they can perform well and where people expect them to," said Peace, who has been with the district for nine years. This will be her first job as a principal.

Peace received her bachelor's in elementary education and in business administration from North Carolina Central University. She got her master's in educational administration and principal certification from Western Kentucky University.

She worked as an accountant before becoming an educator. She changed careers after volunteering in a classroom for two years.

"I found myself having more fun at school than at my real job," she said. "That's what made me go back to school to become a teacher. I feel strongly that this is what I was meant to do."

She and her husband, Charles, who is a full-time member of the Kentucky National Guard, are the proud parents of a puppy named "Tubby."

NOTE:

Sandersville Elementary will replace Linlee Elementary and will cost \$17.5 million.

Liberty Elementary will replace Julia R. Ewan Elementary and will cost \$14.5 million.

William Wells Brown Elementary will replace Johnson Elementary and the old Russell Elementary. The facility will cost \$15 million.