

## Seeking Superintendent's Position

### School Getting Applications From Across Nation For Post



Dr. June Ehinger  
Photo by George Lampton

There is a lot of interest in the School Superintendent's job in McAlester, according to Dr. June Ehinger, Deputy Executive Director of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association.

"You are getting a lot of applications from all over the nation," she told us at last week's meeting.

The search is to replace Superintendent Jim Northcutt, who will retire at the end of this school year, in June.

Northcutt, a Rotarian, began his school career in 1972, as a middle school teacher. Next he became principal at Edmond Doyle, then Will Rogers School.

Next he was business manager for the school district for five years.

He served as assistant superintendent for two years, before taking the top position in the McAlester system.

There are 20 school positions open across the state at the present time, all being helped to some extent by OSSBA.

A "search" and surveys have been made, in an effort to seek "input from the public" in this school district. Yellow sheets of paper, asking for "strengths of McAlester Public Schools," and what "areas you would like to see changed or improved in McAlester Public Schools?"

The survey also asks "what strengths should the superintendent of McAlester Public Schools possess?" and "what are the major challenges (or opportunities) a new superintendent will face at McAlester Public Schools?"

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### 'Both' Public Schools, Christian Schools Needed

"We need both" Christian schools and public schools, Dr. Larry Combs told us week before last. Dr. Combs is the principal of Lakewood Christian School.

Dr. Combs said he came from the Irving, Tx. area, near Dallas.

He said he had a football scholarship to Texas University, and ended up playing for the San Antonio Wings.

The school has 283 students, 47 in the high school, and 12 seniors this year. The school was started in McAlester, 28 years ago.

The seventh and eight grade basketball teams are first in the state, he said. The Academic Teams have also done well, he said. However, the school does not receive any public funds.

Combs said the school is trying to "raise a generation of young people who will make a difference."

He said he had never "tried this before," (of getting involved with telling young people how they should think and act.) But the Bible "is the final authority of God," about how we should live, he added.

### Club Hears 'Update' From Therapeutic Equestrian Assn.

Kerry Selman gave us an update Feb.17, on the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester. (TEAM.)

The TEAM organization has 13 volunteers and a "long-range goal" of 20 horses and four to six certified instructors, Ms. Selman said.

Leaders of the group say they have found that "riding a horse gently and rhythmically" moves the rider's body so that it helps persons with stroke, Cerebral Palsy, MS, MD, ADD and numerous neurological problems.

The organization has 11 clients, as well as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Peewee Wranglers who ride the horses.

Ms. Selman says she "grew up on a ranch and loves horses."

An advisory board was named for TEAM in 2007. Since then, eight horses have been donated.

(Ms. Selman had some more information on progress made by TEAM, but there was trouble e-mailing it.)

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The survey also asks, "Where would you want to place the major focus to improve student performance of McAlester Public Schools in the next five years?"

Although at the end of the survey, a question is asked about the importance of "experience" in three areas, "a superintendent, a teacher (and) a building level administrator," there is no importance asked for, other than the order of listing.

The survey also asks for "other comments or suggestions."

A "Community Meeting" held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the school, also asked for "input from the public..."

A note telling about the meeting points out that the

"surveys are retrieved in Dr. Ehinger's office at the Oklahoma State School Boards Association."

At last week's meeting, a question from the club members asked Dr. Ehinger how much the next McAlester superintendent's salary might be. Salaries for superintendent, across the state range from \$42,000 to \$225,000. she replied, but the number of "Native Americans," and the federal land involved in operations at the Army Ammunition Depot could make a difference, she said. The salary could range between \$100,000 and \$150,000, she estimated to someone.

She said there probably will be six or seven final candidates interviewed.



## Steel Drum Band From High School Entertains Rotary Members



Club members were entertained by The Steel Drum Band from McAlester High School, on Feb. 10, directed by Sean DeNike.

DeNike gave some of the background of how the band developed here.

The group played "Brown-Eyed Girl," "Jump in the Line," "Hot, Hot, Hot" and "Suzie." Photos by George Lampton



### Lost & Found Department

The club is looking for our poster board presentation of Rotary Park. The poster board was about 2x3-feet in size and contained 5x7-inch photographs of the various improvements and facilities in the park. The poster board had been displayed at some of our meetings in the past and was used during the indoctrination sessions for new members. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this poster board, please call Bob Saunier or George Lampton.

## Attendance, Guests, Handshakers, *And the Great Big, Big, Big (?) Pot*

Mike Lowber said there was a good crowd Saturday night at the Gala. Good food and good music. If you weren't there, make it next year.

There were 45 people at the meeting last week. Debbie Watkins was a guest of Mary Shannon. Brian Chadsey was a guest of Randy Saunier. Ken Cotly of Fort Smith was a visiting Rotarian.

On Feb. 17, there were 43 persons present. Guests were Allen Martin and Dr. Larry Combs, principal at Lakewood Christian School.

On Feb. 10, Allen Martin was a guest and Lynn Edwards had guests. But it was so long ago; and the older you are, the harder it is to remember. And if you think that's bad, read on.

HANDSHAKERS-Steve Brock had the dollar last week, and gave it to Jim Bland.

Steve Brock also had the dollar on Feb. 10 and handed it to Betty Talley.

And in the Big, Big Pot, have you noticed that the women are buying tickets now? You don't suppose the money in that pot attracts them?

Doug Auld couldn't remember the exact card he drew last week, but it wasn't the right one. Mary Shannon drew the card the week before. It was a queen, but it wasn't the right one either. Randy and I have tried, and failed. So the pot should be building up, (wherever it is.)