



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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Campus Leadership moves will serve G-P Students, Staff

With the start of a new school year approaching, there will be some new faces in Campus Administration at three Gregory-Portland ISD schools. Last night, the district's Board of Trustees ratified a decision to promote former T.M. Clark Elementary (TMC) Assistant Principal Brenda Brinkman to Principal of Stephen F. Austin Elementary School (SFA). This change comes after former SFA Principal, Melba Franco, accepted an offer to meet the extensive testing needs of G-P High School (G-PHS) students in her new position as Testing Coordinator at the campus.

Brinkman spent three years as an Assistant Principal at Crutchfield Elementary School with Sherman ISD prior to employment with G-PISD. She also served as a Summer School LEP Director for Pre-K/Kindergarten, an Instructional Coach, and a First, Second, Kindergarten, and Reading Recovery Teacher in the same school district. Brinkman has a collective 17 years' experience in education.

"G-PISD is a great school district, and we have awesome teachers and staff at all of our schools," said Brinkman. "So, while it is difficult to leave the T.M. Clark team, I am very excited to support the teachers and staff at S.F. Austin and become part of another amazing G-P team."

SFA will also have a new Assistant Principal, as former G-PHS Dean of Instruction Roxanne Reininger accepted an offer to fill the vacancy following Judi Charlton's retirement after 22 years of service with the district. Priscilla Banda, formerly with Taft ISD, will serve as an Assistant Principal at TMC beginning next school year.

East Cliff Elementary Assistant Principal Susan Svadlenak will retire after 19 years in education, including four with G-PISD. That position will be filled next year by Julie "Suzy" Ponton, former Director of Federal and Special Programs. SFA and TMC will also receive support from the District's Instructional Specialist Tina Ybarra, who will serve as the new Title 1 Instructional Specialist for both campuses.

"The summer months provide opportunities for us to recognize the strengths of our leadership and where they might best serve our students and staff as our needs change from year to year," said G-PISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Clore. "We appreciate the willingness of these leaders to take on roles where they are most needed across the district.

"We also extend our sincere thanks to those who are retiring this year. The contributions that one individual makes in a career serving students cannot be measured, and we are grateful to them. G-PISD is a stronger school district thanks to their efforts, and the work of all our dedicated leaders, teachers, and staff."

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