



ELWOOD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #203

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Dr. Thomas Madden, Superintendent

Dr. Lyell C. Stark, Principal

January 13, 2010

To All the Elwood Staff and Community:

Sandra DeMaso, as president of the Elwood Council, and I are pleased to announce that the School Board has offered the superintendent position to Mr. Tim Arnold, currently principal at Prairieland Elementary School in Normal, IL. Tim visited Elwood School on December 3rd and met with about eight staff members in an interview setting. He also had a chance to meet other staff members as he and I took a tour of the building. The feedback I received from staff was positive which matched the impression Tim had on our Board of Education. Tim has accepted the offer which became official at the January 11th Board meeting.

Our superintendent position garnered 51 online applications. Background checks and paper screening produced six candidates that the Board interviewed on November 23rd and 25th. Tim was the Board's top candidate and was brought back to the district on December 3rd to interview with members of the staff and had a second interview with the Board. The Board asked me over and over again how Tim was received by the staff and I was able to report that I had asked that question of each person that interviewed Tim and that everyone had a positive feeling about him. Finally, three Board members made a site visit to Tim's school in Normal to meet with teachers, non-teaching staff, and parents. All of these groups were very complimentary of Tim as a school leader and very sad at the prospect of losing him.

Although Tim will officially assume the duties of superintendent this coming summer, he is very anxious to begin working with and getting to know everyone. Those who have had a chance to get to know Tim are very excited about what he will bring to Elwood. I am sure that feeling will be shared by those of you who have yet to meet him. I believe we are fortunate to be getting Tim and I know he is fortunate to have the opportunity to work with all of you.

**Tom Madden
Interim Superintendent**