

July 3, 2007

Colleen Pederson named Director of Community Education & Outreach for School District 16

Colleen Pederson, a Spring Lake Park School District 16 employee since 2001, has been named the district's Director of Community Education & Outreach.

The position, approved by the School Board on June 26, retains many of the duties performed by Karen Schaub, who is leaving the district after eight years as Director of Community Education, and adds others.

In this restructured position, Pederson will oversee the district's wide range of programs and services for youth and adults such as school readiness, preschool, Kids Club childcare, swim program, after-school enrichment classes, and adult education.

However, she will also play a lead role in an expanded, purposeful effort to develop relationships and partnerships with new families, businesses, and organizations.

Learning Alternatives programs, traditionally under Community Services Programs, will now be a general education program, under District supervision, and coordinated with the Spring Lake Park High School.

Colleen is "thrilled" to begin her new duties and "to be a part of the growth and excitement in the school district and its communities."



Colleen Pederson

She said she is looking forward to developing a plan that would "strengthen and expand efforts to connect staff, schools, and district with parents, community, businesses, and civic groups."

The possibilities, she added, are "endless, exciting, and will hopefully benefit all parties."

Pederson has been with School District 16 since 2001. She most recently served as an interim principal at Kenneth Hall Elementary, the dean of students at Westwood Intermediate School, and has been an assistant to the principal at Woodcrest Elementary.

She was also a music teacher at both Westwood Elementary and

Woodcrest Elementary in District 16, and in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Pederson has served as assistant coordinator of the district's summer STARS program staff and co-director of the Staff Follereez fundraiser for the Panther Foundation.

She has also been a member of school and district initiatives including the K-5 report card task force, elementary construction task force, K-5 reconfiguration committee, teaching and learning team, school operations committee, crisis team, child study team.

Pederson has a K-12 principal's administrative license from Hamline University, a Master's Degree from Hamline University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

She is pursuing her Community Education licensure from the University of St. Thomas.

She has additional training and experience in urban learner education, assessment for learning, responsive classroom, differentiated instruction, crisis prevention, and grant-writing.

Colleen, husband Mike, and 4-month-old daughter Alyson, live in Coon Rapids.

Pederson began her new duties on July 1.