

M-G creates CFO position

- [By TIM TEDESCHI ttedeschi@chronicle-tribune.com](#) Apr 22, 2021

The Madison-Grant school board accepted the resignation of two building principals Monday, but the two administrators will not be going far.

The board approved the creation of a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) position, which Superintendent Scott Deetz said will encompass the duties of the current business director position as well as additional responsibilities due to federal COVID funding coming to the district and the new partnership with ACCEL Schools for a virtual academy.

Current Madison-Grant Junior/Senior High School Principal Bengamin Mann tendered his resignation from that position as of June 30, and the board approved his appointment to the new CFO position beginning July 1. Deetz said current Business Director Shaela Smith has taken a new job outside the district and will resign effective June 30 as well.

“I’m just thankful and grateful for the opportunity that you guys have provided myself and our family, and we’re grateful to be able to continue to be part of things here,” Mann told the board during the public comment portion of the meeting. “And there’s still work to be done, so thank you.”

The CFO position requires an administrator’s license, which Mann already holds, or a superintendent’s license, Deetz said. Mann is working on earning his superintendent’s license and is also nearing completion of chief business official certification through the Indiana Association of School Business Officials, according to Deetz.

“He is furthering his professional career and his relationship thankfully with Madison-Grant United School Corporation...to have an even greater impact on our students, staff and community,” Deetz said of Mann. “...This is a person that I am delighted to continue

to have on our team and continue to lead our district through the times that we are experiencing.”

M-G’s board additionally accepted the resignation of Park Elementary School Principal Melissa DeWitt, who Deetz said will be taking a position as Head of School for ACCEL’s Virtual Preparatory Academy of Indiana at Madison-Grant. Deetz said he and the district are thrilled to have a familiar face as their main point of contact and as a leader for the new virtual option for district students.

“She is somebody who is steeped in virtual education history and good practices with over a decade’s worth of work, and she has intimate knowledge and direct connection to Madison-Grant,” Deetz said. “We could not be in more capable hands as we enter into this venture.”

The board also approved the creation of a new Grants Coordinator position that will be focused on the approximately \$2.8 million in federal COVID funding coming to the district through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds as well as other government-funded grants. Deetz said the position will be grant-funded and expire at the end of the ESSER grant period in December 2024.

In an email to the Chronicle-Tribune, Deetz said applications for the three now-open positions will be due by May 14, with interviews and reference checks taking place from May 17 through June 2. He said he hopes to be able to recommend the hirings to the board for approval at the June 7 regular board meeting.