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Brentwood Schools prepare for improvements with hiring of new facilities director

STEPHANIE HACKE | Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, 12:54 p.m.

As the Brentwood Borough School District eyes its first major capital improvements in more than 20 years, leaders have hired a director of facilities who will oversee all renovation and construction work.

Jeffrey George, a longtime maintenance staff worker at Duquesne University, stood out among the 20 applicants for the job for his "strong background," Superintendent Amy Burch said. He will start as Brentwood's director of facilities on Dec. 3 and earn a salary of \$65,000.

His job, in part, will be to oversee all renovation and construction work; work with contractors; ensure the district is in compliance with local, state and federal regulations; maintain blueprints for heating and cooling and plumbing systems; and collaborate with the director of school police for training all personnel, Burch said.

George's hiring comes one month after Joe Kozarian, longtime director of school police and facilities, left Brentwood. Board members, at the time, agreed to split his job into two full-time posts "due to upcoming renovations," Burch said.

During the 2017-18 school year, HHS DR Architects/Engineers completed a feasibility study outlining capital improvement needed in the district.

On Nov. 19, board members approved hiring PFM financial management agency to help prioritize projects and determine how best to go out for bonds to finance them, Burch said.

Three projects Burch said are “going to occur” include updating the district’s fire and phone systems; waterproofing the middle/high school electrical room; and waterproofing the band room at Moore Elementary.

“We know there have been no major capital improvements since the early 1990s and the infrastructure has outlasted its lifespan,” she said.

District leaders anticipate going out to bid on the projects this winter, with work beginning in the spring or summer.

“It’s very much needed,” Burch said.

The district will seek community input late winter to early spring on priorities for the district’s spaces.

Board members on Nov. 19 also approved an update to the job description for the director of school police job. Ten people applied for the job, which will include revising the district’s procedures and processes related to security, patrolling the school grounds and serving as a liaison between first responders and the district, Burch said.

Board members will revisit the issue at their Dec. 3 meeting, Burch said. The new director of security also will oversee scheduling for the districts one full-time and two part-time armed school police officers. The district also has four part-time, non-armed security guards.

Stephanie Hacke is a Tribune-Review contributing writer.

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