

Sibbitt's absence to be missed in Paoli schools

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In 2010, Sibbitt has received District VII "Superintendent of the Year Award" from the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. Also this year he has received the "Administrator of the Year Award."

Sibbitt has not always taught in Paoli.

In his earlier years, he taught at three other school systems. At Jeffersonville High School, he taught health and driver education. There he also served as the junior varsity boys' basketball coach from 1964 to 1966.

From 1966 to 1970, he taught and coached at Brownstown Central High School, teaching English and coaching the varsity boys' basketball teams.

Sibbitt's final school, from 1970 to 1974, was at Southwestern Jr. Sr. High School, in Shelby County; he served as the principal.

If Sibbitt could go back to college and start his whole career over he says no, he would never change it. He has accomplished so much and been involved in so many different school systems it seem unimaginable that he would want to change it in any way.

One of Sibbitt's major accomplishments is helping out the Paoli financial system and getting the school back on the right track.

Sibbitt hopes that our new superintendent will be able to do the same.

"Make sure that you take care of the financial resources of the school corporation. In order to provide programs for students you must have money (financial resources) to fund said programs," said Sibbitt.

The impact that Sibbitt has made has been felt by faculty and administration.

At Throop, Principal Sharon Tucker has seen many of the impacts Sibbitt has made throughout his time at Paoli.

"Under his leadership, the Paoli Community School Corporation has grown into the EXEMPLARY community of education that it is today. The name of Alva Sibbbitt is and will continue to be synonymous with growth and education and excellence for all children under his watch," said Tucker.

Also the high school has been made a better educational school due in large part because of Sibbitt.

For PHS principal Jerry Stroud has worked with Sibbitt for a long time, through all the bad and the good. He has seen all of the impacts and accomplishments Sibbitt has made.

"He has been a pillar in our community. His work has impacted 1000's of families. The roots of his impact grow deeply for at least three generations in Paoli," said Stroud.

Stroud also shared one of his memories of Dr. Sibbitt.

"I think the greatest of many accomplishments would be the quality of the facilities but have been maintained and developed during his tenure."

New high school Principal Casey Brewster feels that Sibbitt's financial knowledge has put the corporation in a good place moving on.

"Paoli families have been able to count on quality education in our schools for many decades. The teachers providing the quality instruction have done so in outstanding facilities and with all necessary resources. Although the financial climate is forcing Paoli to, like all other school corporations, scale back in some areas, the preceding decades saw the plentiful resources put to good use by Dr. Sibbitt. Therefore, the foundation in place will lessen the financial challenges Paoli faces in the near future," Brewster.

Before he leaves Sibbitt wants to leave a strong piece of advice to our school corporation.

"Continue to achieve excellence in academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities. Do not accept mediocrity! Continue to provide for at-risk students," advised Sibbitt.

Even though Sibbitt is leaving, his legacy will never be forgotten and his students and faculty will never forget the massive impact he made in our excellence for education.

This reporter once overheard Sibbitt telling a group of students, "I will always bleed Paoli purple, I'm going to bleed Mitchell blue for awhile."



Photo by Sean Fulton



Combs to take over as Superintendent

Beginning January 1, 2011, Dr. Victor Combs will begin as Paoli Schools interim superintendent.

Q. When did you know about transition to becoming the interim?

A. The school board asked me to take the reins after Dr. Sibbitt announced his retirement from our school and accepted the superintendent's job at Mitchell. This took place at our November school board meeting around the middle of November.

Q. How did you feel when you received the news?

A. Since I've never been waiting around for Dr. Sibbitt to leave our school, I was surprised like most that he was actually leaving Paoli. I supposed that you could say that I was "very surprised" when he announced the news.

Q. How will your job be different?

A. Dr. Sibbitt and I have both been in the business of educating youth for the same length of time. We both are in our forty-sixth year in the field. As to my knowledge, I am the only person who has actually been an administrator on all levels (elementary principal, high school principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent) here in the Paoli Community School Corporation. My experience has been on all levels and for this I am very thankful. The main difference in my job now, along with my usually duties, will be to help oversee the school's budget. That's a most important part of our school operations, but I will work hard to accomplish the many changes that need to be made in order to comply with state mandates.

Q. Do you have any goals?

A. The main thrust of my leadership will be to always strive to keep our school system one of the best small school systems in the

state. I will work hard to communicate with our school administrators as they will have input on the directions that are needed to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Q. Do you think you will enjoy being the interim?

A. I have always loved school in performing all of the jobs that I have been fortunate enough to have worked at over the years. I have taught (science), served as a school psychologist, served as a guidance director, served as an assistant high school principal, served as a high school principal, served as an elementary principal, served as an assistant school superintendent, and now superintendent. I coached basketball, football, track, golf and swimming. So, one might conclude that I'm somewhat experienced. I have even been known to have driven the school bus when it helps out my drivers. I think that I will enjoy the superintendent's position since it has an effect on all of the above experiences now.

Q. How long do you think you will be serving?

A. I will serve in the superintendent position as long as I feel that I'm accomplishing what needs to be done to keep our system on track and our reputation of being the "best small" school in the state is maintained. I will work with the school board and my wife to determine exactly how long I will work.

Q. What do you think will be your favorite part about the job?

A. My favorite part of the job will be the satisfaction that I have accomplished in helping our students and staff as they provide the best educational opportunities for all of our youth. I will work very hard to keep our school corporation solvent in the light of state mandates for cuts. That will be a challenge.

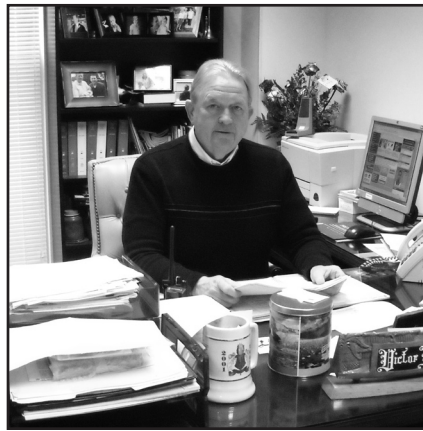


Photo by Sean Fulton

Q. Would you like to be the permanent superintendent?

A. If I were younger, I would have loved to serve as the superintendent of the Paoli Community School Corporation. Since I've been here in my twenty years, I have had the opportunity to leave and lead at other school corporations. But, I have never left because I have a loyalty to our school and my wife and I decided a long time ago to end our careers here.

Q. How do you think it would be more challenging being the superintendent than your current position?

A. I have basically worked at most tasks involving leading a school corporation. I would say that working with the school district's budget, in light of future cuts from the state department, will be the most challenging. But, I will just work harder!

Q. What experience do you have that will prepare you for interim?

A. All of my experiences over the past forty-six years will help me. Plus, I love our kids and staff.

Q&A by Cassidy Daugherty

Changing desks a challenge for staff

This school year, change has happened all around the school. From the clothes that are school appropriate, to the new pass books. With the departure of Mrs. Bradbury from the office, there have also been changes made in positions in different offices.

Tammy Warren who was in the guidance office earlier in the year, has been moved into the position that Mrs. Bradbury used to have.

"I love my new position in the office," said Warren.

Mrs. Warren has been working at the school at different positions in the school.

"I have worked four years in Paoli, and four years in the guidance office," said Warren.

In her switch from guidance office to main office, Warren has found that there are some differences between the two.

"There is a lot more multi-tasking at

my new position," said Warren.

Warren also believes that this job could last a very long time.

"I do see this position as a long term job for me," said Warren.

Another change in the school is the permanent substitute position. Mrs. Pam Minton, who used to be the permanent substitute, has now taken the old job of Mrs. Warren.

"I love my new position in the guidance office," said Minton.

However, Minton has not been a long time member of the school staff.

"This is my first year at Paoli High School, and in the guidance office," said Minton.

Minton believes that there are a few problems that she could face at her new position, but feels like she can figure it out.

"Trying to remember which screen to

bring up to put the correct information in," said Minton, "Once I figure the system out everything will be fine."

Minton's old position did not involve a school environment.

"I worked at Bloomington Hospital of Orange County before coming to the high school," said, Minton. "At the hospital I ordered and stocked supplies."

"What I am doing now is totally different from my former job," said Minton.

Minton believes that this job could work out for the long run.

"I think this job could last a long time, I love working in the school environment. I also have three boys in elementary school so my schedule is perfect for them and their schedule."



10 List

Holiday Facts

1 Hanukkah lasts eight days, a Menorah is used to hold nine candles; including one candle that gets lit every day at the top of the menorah and eight additional candles that get lit one at a time each night of the celebration.

2 During the Hanukkah season, food is fried or baked in oil (preferably olive).

3 Hanukkah comes from the Hebrew verb "to dedicate".

4 Christmas is celebrated on December 25 to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

5 Christmas is the most celebrated holiday worldwide; even non-Christians put up trees, hang stockings and give gifts.

6 Decorating with greenery (trees or bushes) is also part of Jewish tradition.

7 Kwanzaa is a celebration that lasts a week honoring African American heritage and culture.

8 Kwanzaa is meant to let African American's reconnect with their roots.

9 About 4.7 million Americans celebrate Kwanzaa yearly.

10 All three of these winter season holidays involve family togetherness, tradition and culture.