

Kist-Kline takes over as superintendent

Previous experience prepares Kist-Kline to take on new role

Taylor Telford | Staff Writer

The era of Superintendent Dr. Kevin Bright has ended, and with that comes the beginning of the era of Superintendent Dr. Gail Kist-Kline.

When Bright resigned this past March, the Mason School Board selected Kist-Kline as his replacement. She will be Mason's first female superintendent.

Kist-Kline, is hardly a stranger to the position, or being the first female to hold it. Prior to replacing Bright, Kist-Kline served as Wyoming City Schools' Superintendent for seven years, where she was also the district's first female in the position.

Bright said he believes that Kist-Kline will be successful as Mason's superintendent and as his replacement.

"I consider Dr. Kist-Kline an outstanding educational professional," Bright said. "I believe she is a terrific match for the school district and for the community. ...She will accomplish great things at Mason."

In addition to working as a superintendent, Kist-Kline was a professor at Miami University, Assistant Principal at Lakota Schools, Principal and Curriculum Director at Princeton Schools and Principal at St. Joseph Consolidated School in Hamilton.

Kist-Kline said she believes that

her range of experience in the field of education will be beneficial.

As Kist-Kline dedicated herself to learning how Mason is run as a district, she looked to the staff for assistance - and found them to be extremely accommodating.

"People are so helpful," Kist-Kline said. "I ask a lot of questions, and... they're willing to take time and give me answers."

Through her questions, Kist-Kline said she hopes to provide the staff with an opportunity to reflect on how they operate.

"When I say, 'So tell me about what we do,' and then ask, 'And why do we do it that way?' that helps [Mason's staff] think, 'Well wait a minute, why do we do it that way?'" Kist-Kline said.

Another method Kist-Kline said she plans to use in order to better understand how to run the district is to frequently visit the school buildings.

"I plan to be in the buildings a lot," Kist-Kline said.

"This is something I like to do because...it allows me to have first-hand knowledge of what goes on in the classroom."

Though she has been a superintendent in another district, Kist-Kline said she recognizes that she will have to operate differently at Mason than she did at Wyoming.

"Often times what worked in one place



photos by Taylor Telford
High school History teacher Vance Reid talks to Gail Kist-Kline during her walk through of the school.

can be transferred to a new place, but I want to first make certain that I am coming in and honoring Mason and its core," Kist-Kline said.

One difference that Kist-Kline said she will need to adjust to is the increase in size. Mason is a district with over 11,000 students, versus the 2,000 students in the district of Wyoming.

Kist-Kline said she plans to make one of her main goals ensuring that students' educational experience is not negatively affected by the size of the student body.

"The challenge of a district as large as [Mason] is to make sure that the experience for students feels small," Kist-Kline said. "We have to make sure that students do not feel lost in the shuffle, or like they are just a number."

Overall, Kist-Kline said that her main focus as superintendent will be to guarantee that every aspect of the district is serving the students.

"One of the things that I love about being in education is that it's all about the students," Kist-Kline said. "I am committed to making student centered decisions."

According to Kist-Kline, focusing on students is a goal that is shared by all staff members, and Kist-Kline said that united goal is one of Mason's greatest strengths as a district.

"It doesn't matter what your role is here -- everybody is here to serve our students...and that keeps us all in alignment."

