

Clarenceville selects school chief from Plymouth-Canton district

By M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Tom Tattan, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' executive director for instruction, will take the helm as superintendent of the Clarenceville School District in Livonia July 1.

His hiring is expected to become official when the school board votes this evening (Thursday).

Formerly principal of Plymouth-Canton High, Tattan was selected from a field of 87 applicants. He replaces David Kamish, who retired June 30 after five years as superintendent, and 34 years in Clarenceville.

"I think I'm going to a place that really wants a leader and values instructional improvement. I think it's a great opportunity for me," said Tattan.

A Canton resident, Tattan said he and his wife, a Plymouth-Canton teacher, have no plans to move.

Clarenceville has a student body of 1,750, with one high school, one middle school, two elementary and a \$12.6 million budget. Per pupil spending is \$8,700 — \$1,000 more than Plymouth-Canton's.

While it'll be quite a switch moving to a such a small district, Tattan says he's excited. "In a smaller school district, you have the opportunity to personalize things," he said. "You have tremendous opportunities to really impact and personalize things. You can get to know and care for people on a much more personal basis."

"That's not to say anything

'In a smaller school district, you have the opportunity to personalize things. You have tremendous opportunities to really impact and personalize things. You can get to know and care for people on a much more personal basis.'

Dr. Tom Tattan

negative. We have some wonderful people here. My own son went through and graduated from Salem High School and is at the University of Michigan now.

"It's not easy to leave a place where you've been for 11 years," he added. "We've made good friends. But we're not going that far. We'll still live in Canton, and my wife will still teach here. I'm only moving for job purposes. I enjoy Canton and like the development that's going on from the standpoint of Canton gaining its own identity."

Tattan declined to disclose what his new salary will be, but said it will mean a pay increase. He presently earns \$90,499.

Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Charles Little said he's happy for Tattan.

"This is a good opportunity for him. He's invested a lot of professional time here (in administration) and at the high school. We're glad he has the opportunity to move ahead."

Tattan says he's proudest of "the relationships I've made with people. I have some good friends among the teaching staff, administration and parents. I think I have helped people improve, and

I've grown professionally. I appreciate the opportunities (former superintendent) Dr. Hoben provided for me."

The administrator said he looks forward to interacting with the Clarenceville board. "They truly care about their school district and their future. That's why they have a good relationship with their staff."

First on his agenda will be "talking to people, and a lot of listening and observing" and integrating instructional technology with a \$7 million bond issue.

Comparisons to Plymouth-Canton can't be made. "I think I have to go in and provide opportunities to excel, just like I did here."

Tattan was ready for a move. He applied for the Plymouth-Canton superintendency after Hoben retired, and for his old job as Canton High School principal after Tom MacKenzie left.

Among the two other semi-finalists, Tattan spent a full day in Clarenceville, meeting with administrators, staff, students



New and in charge: Tom Tattan, former principal of Plymouth-Canton High School, has been tapped to lead the Clarenceville Schools.

and parents. The April 2 visit began at 7:30 a.m. and ended with an evening open house for residents, followed by an hour-long interview with the school board.

In northeast Livonia, Clarenceville serves parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

Tattan beat out semi-finalists E. Jade Hudson, a retired educator from Ohio, and Alan K. McLean, superintendent of the

Maple Valley School District in central Michigan. Hudson also is a candidate for Clarkson superintendent.

Tattan joined Plymouth-Canton in 1986. He worked as principal before becoming executive director of secondary education in 1990. His teaching career began in 1972 in Ohio. Tattan taught and coached in three

Ohio districts before becoming an assistant principal in 1977 and a high school principal in 1979.

Tattan holds three degrees in education from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate from Wayne State University. He teaches a parent-involvement class for graduate students at Wayne State University.

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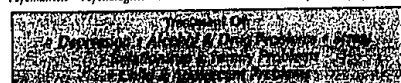
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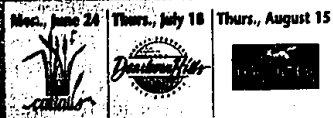
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