

School jobs fair draws big number of teacher candidates

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington Public Schools welcomed approximately 1,200-1,300 job candidates at the district's first-ever recruitment fair.

According to Larry Lobert, executive director for human resources, Saturday's event at Farmington High School was a "huge success," based on the turnout and the general feedback from people.

"And that feedback was coming back not only from administrators who did the interviews but the candidates," Lobert said. "They liked the personal touch."

Lobert said pre-registration was taken on-line for 1,500 participants, and that attendance was "in the range of 80-to-90 percent."

One drawback was there were relatively few walk-ups, despite publicity.

"Now, we'll be poring over the data over the next few days to

FARMINGTON

come up with a finalist list for openings in all areas, said Lobert.

He emphasized, however, that by no means is the district closing the doors to anyone who did not attend the recruitment fair or who might contact the district about employment in the coming months.

"We don't want to exclude anybody," Lobert said. "We're just kicking off the hiring process."

Meanwhile, he added that those who might not make the top of the candidates' list shouldn't think they are completely out of the picture. "No one is eliminated from consideration."

The recruitment fair attracted mostly teacher candidates. But Lobert said the day also provided opportunities for those seeking various support positions

(custodial, secretarial, nutrition services, transportation).

Of the teacher hopefuls, the majority were those who will soon graduate from college. Drawing the most interest for teachers was the elementary level, with an estimated 30 percent of faculty job hopefuls.

Asked why that was, Lobert said education students who gravitate toward elementary school teaching tend to "be people more enamored with the art of teaching. Secondary (level) people tend to be more content specialists. But we want good teachers at all levels."

Lobert said he wasn't sure yet about how many teacher openings might be available for 2000-01, but that 88 teachers were hired for the current year. "I'm thinking we'll probably be in the same range."

Spring splash Support drug ed programs

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F.F.I.A. also provides programming for parents. These include, Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol (TWYKAA), G.R.L.P. - Generations Responding to Issues and Problems, and Middle School Madness which focuses on middle school adjustments.

F.F.I.A. produces a parent handbook which gives information ranging from condition curfews for teens to danger signals which could indicate a substance abuse problem as well as a F.F.I.A. newsletter which is published four times a year.

In October, F.F.I.A. organizes SoberOctober, a month of activities to heighten awareness and educate the community on issues pertaining to substance abuse. Red ribbons are worn as a symbol of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

For tickets or more information, contact Betty Dworkin at 661-4646.

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