



## School board fills instruction position, lauds new transportation software

BY MARIANNE MCKIM  
RUMBAUGH  
*Times Staff Writer*

Sandra Tippett, supervisor of curriculum and instruction at Gettysburg Area School District, has resigned her duties and has taken an assistant superintendent position at a different school district. Tippett had been employed with Gettysburg for two years.

Monday night, the board chose Kathy Thompson, current supervisor of special education, to fill Tippett's position, as well as her own, now dubbed director of educational services, until June 2005.

Also, the new transportation software at Gettysburg Area School District is running smoothly and efficiently, according to William Bowling, transportation coordinator.

At the Monday night meeting, Bowling updated the board on how well the program is helping to meet the needs of the district.

BusBoss, the Windows-friendly software from Orbit, is an impressive upgrade from the 1991 DOS system the district had been working with, he said.

"It (the new program) allows for more options and is interactive," Bowling said. "It is much easier to use and is faster."

The previous software has not been able to be upgraded, was hard to maintain, and there was no support system to make improvements, Brad Hunt, business manager, said.

In 1991, the cost to install the system could be estimated at

approximately \$90,000. The new software cost a little more than \$18,000.

BusBoss allows Bowling to update student transportation information at a much more elevated level.

It has essentially gone from a paper records to computer. Bowling now doesn't have to make hand-written notations when changes occur, but can automatically log onto the system to make the adjustments such as, address changes, bus routes and assigned stops.

"It also helps when we have bad weather or accidents – there are maps on the software that allow us to access the information immediately," Hunt said.

Another added bonus is that more administrators can access the information, as well as Bowling being able to access the system from his home computer.

Out of the 3,721 students enrolled in the district, there are 3,346 Gettysburg school students who are signed up to receive transportation.

There are 375 non-public school students enrolled in the transportation network.

With 3,345 students assigned, 3,033 are Gettysburg Area School District students and 258 non-public students.

By law, the district must provide transportation to the students who are within ten miles outside the district. Saint Francis Xavier, Adams County Christian Academy, Seventh Day Adventist, Freedom Christian School, Immaculate

Conception, Sacred Heart, Oxford Christian Academy, Annunciation B.V.M., Delone Catholic, Faith Valley Christian School and Mother Seton School are the other areas that Gettysburg Area School District must accommodate.

According to Bowling, there are 1,010 different bus stops that are currently in use, and these areas are often used more than four-times a day.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle that we have to lay out in August," Bowling said. "We have to take into account winter weather and foggy weather. We don't want our drivers to have to rush to get the students to school on time."

The new software has a quick turn-around time, and is much simpler than the previous. It allows the district to provide more responsive service.

In other business, the board:

✓ approved a request for the superintendent to expel a middle school student for one year due to a weapon's violation.

✓ approved an agreement with the Franklin Learning Center Joint School Committee in Chambersburg, to continue the educational services for special education students from the district for the 2004-2005 school year.

✓ approved two change order request for the renovation of James Gettys Elementary School.

*Marianne McKim Rumbaugh can be contacted at [mrumbaugh@gburgtimes.com](mailto:mrumbaugh@gburgtimes.com).*