

*An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Superintendent*

PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT



New Raymer, Colorado

THE POSITION

The **Prairie School District, New Raymer, Colorado**, Board of Education, is seeking a highly qualified and fully licensed **Superintendent**. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position **July 1, 2022**.

McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., Executive Recruitment and Development, in association with the Colorado Association of School Boards, has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the board of education in identifying and screening the candidates.

Enrollment: 200

Location: Prairie School District RE-11J in Northeastern Colorado is located on the grasslands between the towns of New Raymer and Stoneham. The school is approximately thirty miles west of Sterling and twenty-seven miles north of Fort Morgan. Prairie School District serves students from all of the above mentioned towns and surrounding communities as well as those students who reside in the district.

Salary: \$90,000-\$125,000 based upon experience, with a negotiated benefit package that includes family health, dental and vision, and single life insurance, and district provided housing

The Qualifications

The candidate must have the background, skills, and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The board recognizes that selecting a superintendent is one of the most important decisions it will make. The board has identified the following desired characteristics:

- Disciplines equally with students, community, board, staff and parents
- Will take care of building
- Values small town
- Appreciates rural life
- Understands rural education
- Involved in community
- Preferred teaching and administration experience
- Understands Colorado state laws
- Understands Colorado state standards
- Good at finance
- Supports professional development
- Good listener – listen to understand
- Has conservative values
- Good at public relations
- Will hold themselves and others accountable
- Independent thinker
- Highly recommended by previous staff
- Looks through all situations with different lenses
- Professional
- Good communicator
- Strong leadership skills
- Data informed
- Works well with CBOCES
- Creates a pleasant and respectful environment
- Is welcoming
- Positive, approachable and optimistic
- Problem solver
- Willing to be all in and not half in/half out
- Strong moral compass
- Servant leader
- Knowledgeable about bond referendum and mil levy
- Values people and ensures that they feel valued
- Prefer superintendent experience
- Prefer candidate live in district
- Strong technology background – proficient
- Will support policy regarding armed staff and security and the armed staff program



ABOUT US

As the gateway to the Pawnee National Grasslands, New Raymer is a small town located in the eastern plains of Colorado, 109 miles northeast of Denver. Raymer sits at an elevation of 4,777 feet in Weld County.

Prairie has a long tradition of excellence, school pride and community involvement. The school was built in 2012-2013 and is a consolidation of the New Raymer and Stoneham school districts. Vocational organizations including the FFA and FBLA are important educational programs as they provide students with relevant, applied learning opportunities with an emphasis on personal growth and student leadership. Furthermore, school athletic programs help students learn physical fitness, leadership and ethical conduct in and outside the school setting. In the realm of academics, based on averages, the district is one of the highest scoring school districts on the CSAP in the North Central Region.

The Board of Education is involved in working with administrators and setting goals for the school. They are actively involved in education and development activities as evidenced through attendance at CASB and CBOCES functions. Prairie School has a long tradition of excellence and school pride and community involvement.



The school population has continued to increase over the last 10 years. The school has a student population of 220 students in grades pre-school through twelfth. The school district is experiencing considerable growth and striving to meet the varied educational needs of all students. The school is predominately white with 33% of the students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch. Approximately 70% of the students reside outside of the district and attend Prairie as a school of choice. The school district is roughly 676 square miles and school buses travel approximately 850 miles on routes per day. Both in district and out of district students enjoy the educational benefits available at this small school, and many travel long distances to receive what one parent called, "a private school education at a public school price."

School typically starts around the third week in August and runs through the third week in May. Students attend school 4 days a week generally speaking. Students have an eight period day with school starting at 7:50 and releasing at 3:41. Students have the opportunity to eat fabulous homemade meals. Breakfast is served at 7:30 and lunch is 11:30ish for elementary and 12:30 for junior high and high school students.

We pride ourselves in having a good teacher to student ratio, capping our class size at 16. We offer many different programs/organizations for our students to participate in. Some of these are as follows: FBLA, FFA, NHS, Gifted and Talented enrichment, Intervention support, Math and Science contests, Concurrent Enrollment for Juniors and Seniors, Athletics, vocational education, ICAP, Spanish 1 and 2, fine arts classes (band, choir, and art), library, and many other individualized interests.



[HTTP://PRAIRIESCHOOL.ORG](http://prairieschool.org)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education consists of five members, elected to serve four-year terms. The incumbency of the members ranges from 4 months to 7 years.

Name, Occupation, Years Served

- Danielle Mertens, Self Employed, 7 years
- Nancy Kugler, Northeastern Junior College Adjunct, 6.5 years

Name, Occupation, Years Served

- Susie Kester, Retired, 4 months
- John Ford, Self Employed, 4.5 years
- Janie Shoemaker, Self Employed, 4 months



Colorado Association
of School Boards

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APPLICATION

available at
www.macnjake.com



An application for superintendent should include:

- ◆ A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position.
- ◆ A current résumé.
- ◆ A completed application form.
- ◆ Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s).

Candidates are asked not to directly contact board members. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws. In the final process, the school board may visit the district where the candidate is employed, but will not proceed without the knowledge and consent of the candidate.

Selection Timeline

- ◆ Closing date for applications: **May 31, 2022**
- ◆ Board of Education selects finalists to interview: **June 13, 2022**
- ◆ Interviews with the Board of Education: **June 27-29, 2022**
- ◆ Selection of new Superintendent: **June 30, 2022**
- ◆ Start date: **July 1, 2022 or as soon as possible**

Prairie School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability and, when needed, will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Anyone requesting a reasonable accommodation in the application or recruitment process please contact McPherson & Jacobson at the address/phone/email above.