

Craig Martin, Marie Pink chosen as Coolidge administrators

By DOUG WOOD-BOYLE

READING - On the recommendation of Superintendent Patrick Schettini, the School Committee voted at their recent meeting to waive a step in the search process and named Craig Martin and Marie Pink as the principal and vice principal, respectively, at the Coolidge Middle School.

Both people have been performing the duties of their positions since being named as acting principal and vice principal last June. The positions became open when former Coolidge Principal John Doherty was named as assistant superintendent.

In his presentation, Schettini said, "Craig Martin has done a phenomenal job in a number of ways."

According to Schettini, Martin and Pink have worked well together on several projects. This included organizing students at the school in general and getting those students to support another student who was suffering from cancer.

The action by the Committee allowed the waiver of what is better known as Policy CBB. The policy requires the securing of "...input of parents, teachers, community, and in special cases, students in the process of screening candidates for (the positions of associate superintendent and principal)."

Schettini said, "The way they work as a pair complements each other very well."

He also referred to Pink's certification in Special Educa-

tion and said, "It is also good to have a special education person on the administrative council."

Committee member Carl McFadden said, "I don't know of one time when I have received a phone call that a top notch job has not been done at the school."

Committee member Pete Dahl noted that under the School Reform Act, the Superintendent has the ultimate power to make the choice for the positions named.

School Committee Vice Chairperson Elaine Webb echoed the platitudes of her colleagues. She also noted that the team works well together.

The final vote was unanimous and the appointment will take effect immediately.

In other personnel issues, Schettini introduced Joseph Huggins as the new facilities director for town and school buildings. Huggins has been on the job since January 30.

He comes to Reading from Melrose where he served as director of school facilities for the past two years. Prior to that, he served for several years as the assistant director of school and town facilities in the Town of Lynnfield.

In a recent interview, Schettini said, "It's been a great transition. (Huggins) has a solid knowledge of buildings and procurement procedures. He also has a great ability to work with vendors."