



York regional charter school hiring administrator

By ANGIE MASON
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The York Academy Regional Charter School is looking for a leader to guide the new school to its fall 2011 opening.

The school is accepting applications for a chief academic officer, according to its Web site. That person will oversee the operations of the school, said Dennis Baughman, co-chairman of the YorkCounts Educational Opportunities Committee and president of the charter's board.

Since there will only be 225 students in grades kindergarten, 1 and 2 to start, there won't be a separate superintendent and principal, Baughman said. The school, which would be open to students from the York City, York Suburban and Central York school districts, will have one administrative staff member to run the show at first, he said.

As the school grows -- adding a grade each year -- more staff will be added.

"Personally, I'm looking for leadership skills," Baughman said.

The charter school will be a unique situation, he

said, since the instructional program will be entirely different than any public schools in the county. The school will offer International Baccalaureate curriculum, so it would be nice to find someone with experience in that program, Baughman said.

"We know that might be difficult to find," he said.

Interviews for the position will begin Aug. 1.

Once the chief academic officer is appointed, that person will hire staff, who will have to be trained through the IB organization, Baughman said.

The first year of the school will be a sort of trial,

he said, with a mentor from the IB program to help ensure the program is put into place correctly.

The charter school board has been meeting for several months to tackle issues such as policies, dress code and what second language will be taught at the school.

The building: The school is slated to occupy the Smyser-Royer building in downtown York, part of the Northwest Triangle redevelopment area.

The outside of the building is in pretty good shape, Baughman said, and the school is working with Kinsley Construction on the interior of the building, creating classroom space and a

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cafeteria, for example.

Baughman said the school has been assured the renovations will be complete and the building ready for the school to take over by July 2011.

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What is IB?

The International Baccalaureate academic program prepares students for college and to ask challenging questions and communicate and understand people from other countries and cultures, according to the program's website.

Dennis Baughman, president of the York Academy Regional Charter School board, said it offers an inquiry-based approach to education, encouraging students to do research. The curriculum is transdisciplinary -- there isn't scheduled time for science, math and so on, but rather teachers focus on the curriculum's elements in everything they teach. They could go from English to social studies and back within 20 minutes, he said.

Learn more at www.ibo.org.

More

See the job description for the chief academic officer at York Academy Regional Charter School at www.yorkarcs.org. Deadline for applications is July 31.

Also of interest

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