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Retirement doesn't stop service of former principal

BY FORREST SELLERS | COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF WRITER

MT. WASHINGTON - Students call interim principal Ed Hoffer "Rocky Balboa" because he keeps coming back.

His involvement at McNicholas High School goes back to 1954 when he taught English and American history at the school. He also coached football and basketball or as he put it any sport which didn't have an available coach.

He has served as a principal and superintendent throughout his career including stints with the Huber Heights City Schools and Forest Hills School District.

He is currently serving as an interim principal at McNicholas High School while the school searches for a replacement for former principal Tom Bill.

Q. What brought you back to McNick?

A. "What brings me back is there is a need. It's one I'm glad to fill.

"I have a respect for the work the people do here. My mission is to educate children."

Q. How are you approaching this interim position?

A. "I come in with an attitude (that) I'm not going to be a caretaker.

"I will work with the parents, students and teachers to identify needs and set goals. If there is something we can do we'll do it."

Q. What led to a career in education?

A. "I had good teachers (when) I went to Xavier (university).

"I wanted a position where I could see results from my contribution."

Q. What has been a highlight returning to McNick?

A. "The people. The parents, the students. The fact the students are so welcoming reflects well on the school."

Q. What is your proudest accomplishment?

A. "I don't have those. There are things which give me satisfaction, but for me it's not personal pride. It's a team effort and the satisfaction you get from working with professional colleagues."

Q. What have been your most memorable moments?

A. "God, family and my profession are what is important to me.

"For me it's not necessarily any personal achievement (or a specific moment)."

Q. What's it like coming back?

A. "It's nothing new. I fell right back into it."

Q. What is different or has changed in education?



A. "Class size is lower, and salaries are higher. Education is obviously a higher priority nationally and locally.

"I hope the 'humanness' of the profession continues. I think technology is important, but it has to have the human touch of the teacher."

Q. What's next?

A. "This (interim position) will be it. I've had a long, wonderful life. (However) I will never sit still. I will continue to be

active in the parish."

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