

Teacher tapped to head BC Elementary

School 3: Boulder Creek
By KAREN CLARK
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FELTON — San Lorenzo Valley schools Superintendent Andrew Meyer said Friday that he will recommend longtime district teacher Julie Haff for the principal's job at Boulder Creek Elementary School.

If approved by trustees at a special meeting Tuesday, Haff, a sixth-grade teacher at Redwood Elementary School in Boulder Creek, will start her new duties July 1.

Haff would replace Bonnie Tinder, who announced her resignation in April after less than a year at the school. Tinder would not publicly discuss the reasons for her departure.

Meyer said Haff was the only one of the 27 applicants for the job who worked in the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District.

"Each district has its own unique ... way of doing things," said Meyer. "It's so difficult to come into a new place and try to learn that on the job."

Julie Haff's selection as principal must be approved by trustees at a special meeting Tuesday.

Haff, 41, has lived in Boulder Creek since she was in college. "I'm part of the community," she said.

Haff started her career 18 years ago at Quail Hollow School, where she taught first and second grades. She taught second, third and sixth grades at Boulder Creek Elementary for eight years before moving to Redwood when it opened four years ago.

"I've always been a person who likes change ... and new challenges," said Haff. "I think it (Boulder Creek Elementary) is an exciting place to be. It's got many good things going on there already. ... The challenge will be to push our-

selves farther."

Haff has been working on a master's degree in educational administration at Santa Clara University for two years. She earned a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University, and an associate of arts degree from West Valley Community College in Saratoga.

"My recommendation is based on observations from the (selection panel) in addition to recommendations given to me by those people who knew Julie and had worked with her over time," said Meyer. "She's an outstanding educator who I believe will have tremendous success at Boulder Creek Ele-

mentary School."

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The selection panel, which interviewed the top five candidates, was made up of Catherine Gallegos, assistant superintendent for educational services; Charlotte Basinger, principal at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School; teachers Liz Vallance and Lorraine Krilanovich; non-certificated employees Lorna Gutierrez and Sue Seeger; and Boulder Creek parents Tom Purdy and Grace Malley.

Panel members told Meyer they were impressed with Haff's ideas, enthusiasm and willingness to listen, as well as her plans to involve parents and staff members in decisions.