

Franke resigns new contract at Minford

Assistant superintendent has been part of school system since 1973

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Amid a controversy surrounding Minford schools' financial problems and the nonrenewal of five teachers' one-year contracts, Assistant Superintendent Glenn Franke has resigned his new contract.

"This ends all of the

things we have been doing for the past 21 years," said Superintendent Dennis Meade.

On April 17, Meade announced the system had a \$500,000 deficit, and five teachers had one-year contracts that were not renewed for the 2007-08 school year.

The controversy began

when Franke's contract was renewed.

"This all started in 1986 when the board created the position of assistant superintendent," Meade said.

Franke said he made his decision, "because I personally feel it's the best thing to do in these financial times."

"If I can help save some-

one's position by doing so, that is what I want to do," he said.

Franke said he has been a part of the Minford school system since 1973.

He said there is a perception on the part of some people that the school system does not need administrative personnel.

"But people need to under-

stand, with federal programs, special education and supervision of non-teaching personnel, it all comes directly to me," Franke said. "The poverty-based programs bring in around \$400,000 a year. These are jobs that someone is going to have to do now."

Franke's current contract called for him to work 195 days a year.

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"And that was a straight 195 days, no vacation days, and I paid my own insurance," he said. "I worked at least 8 1/2 to 9 hours a day. As long as there were buses taking children home, I stayed at the office. If anything happened, I was the one they called."

In response to claims by members of the community that Franke was paid \$150,000 a year, Meade said, "I don't think anyone makes that kind of money in the county. I certainly don't."

Franke said he was paid \$68,000 this year.

"Of course, I get my retirement pay, but that has nothing to do with it," he said.

Franke said he had retired, but returned to work.

"There are not a lot of people out there who are certified as superintendents," he said.

Meade said he had a meeting with teaching and administrative liaisons and felt sure they will recover from financial problems.

"Our high school and our elementary schools are ranked 'excellent,' and our middle school is 'effective', and we were one of the few school systems in the state to pass state AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), and we have an excellent faculty working hard to make the middle

school 'excellent' as well," he said. "Amy Odell and Kevin Lloyd attended a seminar presented by the Ohio Appalachian Educational Leadership Institute because they are working hard to bring about success."

Franke and Meade agree the decline in enrollment is a major factor in the reduction of school funding.

"We don't have a monopoly on the decline in student enrollment. We are down by 10 percent, but it's that way statewide," Franke said. "The legislation has done a lot to create alternative education for kids. They are now being home-schooled, some have come directly out of our district to attend the (Sciotoville) community school, and then there are those who are attending virtual schools on the computer, so enrollment is down all over the state."

Franke said he had no plans for the future.

"But I do have a new grandson I look forward to spending a lot of time with, and I certainly don't see myself not working," he said.

Franke said he was extremely proud of the accomplishments of Minford schools in recent years.

"I have loved this system since 1973, and I believe it will come out of this situation."

