Bertrand Heir Takes Office

CROWLEY — Acadia Parish's new superintendent says he feels "lucky" to have been hired to fill the shoes of recently retired Superintendent Dr. John Bertrand.

Yesterday, Dr. James Griffin was sworn into office replacing Bertrand whose retirement became effective June 30.

At the school board meeting last night, Griffin said, "Throughout my career in education, I have been lucky enough to gain promotion to a position being vacated by successful administrators, just as I have done today."

Pledge

"I look forward to working with all of you and I pledge to continue the quality educational practices this parish is noted for."

Griffin noted that his plans also include clarifying the roles, responsibilities and goals of the people in the school system.

"I am grateful to Dr. John Bertrand for the background that he gave me since I joined the central office staff which has prepared me to assume this role," he said.

The new superintendent stressed that communication will be a key factor in the success of his administration. He asked board members to keep doors open for communication so "we can work together for the benefit of the education system in Acadia Parish in the years ahead."

In business last night, the board made two appointments to positions left open by personnel changes within the school system.

Appointments

Glen Mayard was appointed assistant principal of Crowley High School. Mayard now serves as guidance counselor at the school.

A Midland High School teacher, John K. Lejeune, was named assistant principal of Church Point High School.

Griffin said 14 people had been moved to positions of higher responsibility.

In making the personnel changes, some board members commented last night that they found there were not enough teachers going back to school for advanced education needed for promotion to administrative positions.

One board member expressed concern over the small number of applications received for the two assistant principal jobs.

Mickey Scanlan said he felt the central office staff, and particularly the superintendent, need to encourage teachers to work toward these jobs.

Only one application was received for the position open at Crowley High and two were received for the Church Point position.