Students, Staff, Parents, and Community,

I’d like to tell you something about the new guy the School just hired. It’s about me, your new Superintendent and Principal, Donald Petersen. I’m not normally a person who writes articles about me, but I was recently hired by the School Board to do the job. I would like you to know how excited my wife and I are to move to Monument and be part of your school and community. Mr. Lain, the Board, those of you responsible for the school news, and even run your motel have made me feel welcome. So why am I excited about Monument? It is because I love small schools and kids, rural life, and your community. The moment I set eyes on Monument, it felt like home, as I’m sure it does for you. For me, moving to Monument means I can be closer to the things I love although I will miss EagleRidge High School in Klamath Falls. My family means a great deal to me and they are now closer with my move to Monument. My wife Madeline and I have six daughters. Unfortunately, they all have families of their own and I haven’t found a way to get them or their kids to move here yet.

I’d like to answer a few questions that I would like to know if I were you. First, what kind of educational background does he have, where did he go to school, what did he take in school and the jobs he has held to qualify him for the job that our Board is entrusting him with? I was born in Ely, and lived in Preston, Nevada and my first job was dumping off bales of hay to our cows. After high school, I attended the University of Nevada, Reno and majored in Agri-Business. My first job out of college was in Eden, Idaho and I was employed by USS Agri-Chemicals and Simplot Soil Builders. Having 6 children in school, it was natural for me to become a member of the school board. Watching and supporting great teachers help kids learn how to learn was exciting to me. I started my teaching career teaching Economics and Business Computers in Cambridge, Idaho. I received my Masters in Educational Technology from Boise State and my Administrative Credential through the U. of South Alabama via the Nevada Dept. of Ed. I also taught in Gold Beach, Oregon and run the Alternative Education program and Charter School. I also served as Head Teacher/Vice Principal at McDermitt, Nevada before serving the last 5 years in Klamath Falls as Superintendent/Principal of EagleRidge High School (200 students). I have been a football coach, wresting coach, and even produced a yearbook for 7 years. My love of Agriculture, Computers, Science, and Math has always been my educational love and I hope to share that love with the school community.

Second, how is he going to lead our School? I like working closely with the school staff recognizing that they were hired by the Board because they are professionals. That is what I expect, a professional relationship that will include a leadership team of teachers and staff that set goals and achieve them. This will include working with the community and parents in continuing traditions of achievement. I will always be looking for ways to support those I work with in professional development. I have also served on various School Accreditation Teams the past 5 years throughout the State of Oregon, most recently on a team in Milton-Freewater this spring. This experience has allowed me to see what good collaboration can do to help schools be successful. I feel a responsibility to parents to be an advocate for their students at school. I believe that being an advocate for students helps support them and builds a strong team approach with parents, students, teachers, and administrator all working for successful learning.

Third, what does the guy like to do for fun? Honestly, I like both sports and technology. I like working with kids. I’ve judged the State Discuss Competition in Idaho and been most challenged by Judging the Javlin here in Oregon (those things are sharp). I especially like being with my family. I enjoy the outdoors, I can fish and hunt, but mostly I just enjoy the beauty of what God created especially when a swather cuts hay or a river cuts through a mountain. I love Collegiate Wrestling and Football and the science behind the sport. Occasionally you can find me reviewing YouTube wrestling matches and football games. My family tree contains cowboys and even some of my daughters families are in Agriculture and own and love horses. My wife says my greatest hobby is my school.

I realize as I wrote this, that you will have a lot more questions as you get to know me. I hope this article helps and gives you something to talk to me about when we meet. I also look forward to getting to know each of you, reporting about our school, and working alongside the community to support the students of the Monument area.

Donald Petersen