



Murray City School District
147 East 5065 South ■ Murray, Utah 84107
Phone: (801) 264-7400 ■ Fax: (801) 264-7456

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: D. Wright, Communications/PIO
Murray City School District
801-264-7422 desk; 801-243-8708 cell

New Board of Education Member appointed to the Murray Board of Education

The Murray Board of Education appointed a new board member for the Precinct 4 area of central Murray at the Wednesday, October 12, 2011 Board of Education meeting. Cris Longhurst was named to the position after applications were invited and interviews were conducted by the Board. This action was necessary after Laura Baker's recent passing. Mrs. Baker had served for many years as a board member and community leader.

Mrs. Longhurst comes to the Murray Board of Education as a long-time Murray resident (since 1984), with three sons educated in the Murray City School District. She is currently an associate professor at Salt Lake Community College, with school board member experience in her home state of California.

A graduate of UCLA, Los Angeles, California with a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature, and a Master of Arts degree in American Literature from BYU, Mrs. Longhurst teaches college preparatory writing to students in the Division of Developmental Education at SLCC. Her motivation in applying for the Board of Education position was "to be able to help children prepare themselves for whatever opportunity comes along to them personally, academically or professionally."

Mrs. Longhurst is married to Fred Longhurst and together, they have seven children from their combined families. She notes that her "12 years as a single parent was a refining experience and gave (her) insight into the challenges that many single parents face today." And, that "being raised in rural Fallbrook, California on an avocado and lemon farm provided a good grounding for life."

"Mrs. Longhurst brings numerous years of experience in the field of education to the table. Combined with her many years of living in Murray, having children and now a grandchild in the

Murray District, we feel that we have found a highly qualified person to fill our unexpectedly vacated board position," said Darrel Pehrson, Murray Board of Education,

The Murray Board of Education voted unanimously to name Cris Longhurst as board member during the recent meeting; she was sworn into the position by Salt Lake County Clerk Sherrie Swensen immediately after. Mrs. Longhurst will fill the Precinct 4 board member seat until the next election cycle in November 2012, as stated by Utah State Board of Education bylaws. At that time, she may decide whether to run as a candidate for the same seat.

*Under the direction of the Murray Schools Board of Education, the mission of the Murray City School District is to work in partnership with the community in the education of youth in a changing society.
Dr. Steven Hirase is superintendent and chief executive officer of the Murray City School District;
Mr. Darrel Pehrson is president of the Murray Board of Education.*

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