

# McBride's resumé gap

Jim McBride's campaign to be elected Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction is simple. His pitch is: "I am a Republican. You are a Republican. You must vote for me."

It didn't pan out for Eli Bebout. Will it work any better for Jim McBride?

In the primary election, Republican voters stayed away from McBride in droves. He simply is not a good candidate.

For Republicans to vote for him just because his name is on that side of the ballot would be tragic. Michelle Hoffman is a tenfold better and more competent candidate than McBride. If ever there was a time for Republicans to cross over and vote for a candidate of the other party, and for Independents to come down on the side of a Democrat, this race is one.

That the Superintendent of Public Instruction is a partisan position makes no sense at all. When politics becomes a factor in educating Wyoming children, all will suffer. But it is a partisan race.

Jim McBride is a disloyal mid-level WDE employee who got lucky when a group of Republicans on the State Central Committee even forwarded his name to the Governor. The Republicans should have known better. This cannot be laid at the feet of the Governor. He got to choose from the list of three sent to him and he chose the one he thought would be easiest for him to handle. He feared the woman nominee and had already replaced the other guy in an earlier action.

McBride was the only option for a Governor of the opposite political party.

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*Many, many other locations in the City and Laramie County*

There are serious and unanswered questions pertaining to the reason(s) his brief tenure as superintendent of schools in Bennett, Colorado was terminated. He refuses to answer those questions for the Cheyenne Herald. Even the timetable he has provided in his own campaign materials - and articles written about his past in the controlled media - leave the questions unanswered.

In addition to why his employment was terminated, what were the exact dates of employment at that school district? Contradictory dates have been printed.

McBride began his employment with the Wyoming Department of Education in 2003. Since his arrival, there has been but one election and that was in 2004 - and this year's primary, of course. So, his claim of being a "Lifetime registered Republican," doesn't carry much weight.

Who has he ever voted for in Wyoming? Not Eli Bebout. Not Trent. Not Cynthia. Not Judy or Jim or George or Dick. He couldn't vote for any of those Republicans while here because he didn't live here when any of them were candidates.

Barbara Cubin belittles her opponent's "only 16 years" in Wyoming. What must she think of Jim McBride's 42 months, give or take a couple? McBride has never worked in the public school system in Wyoming and his job at WDE before being named interim Superintendent was not within the sphere of influence or knowledge. He was an underling.

His opponent, Michelle Hoffman, was born, raised and educated here and has been employed in the State of Wyoming her entire life. While McBride has no classroom, administrative or supervisory experience in Wyoming schools, Michelle has 20 years at all levels - and also eight years on the Lander school board.

Why should Wyoming voters believe that a retired Air Force officer with virtually no public school experience anywhere, would be the best choice for state superintendent of schools?

McBride is relying on voters not knowing about his lack of experience and counting on his running as a Republican to carry the day for him. If it does, voters will get exactly what they deserve.

Beside the fact that he is so new to Wyoming, his recent professional past is troubling. It is extremely troubling.

He retired from the Air Force in December of 2001. And in spite of his campaign website assertion that he worked as Bennett superintendent from August, 2001 until January, 2003, he did not.

Let me explain why I can say that without fear of contradiction: He couldn't have started in Bennett in August of 2001, he was not retired from the Air Force yet. More importantly, the Bennett, Colorado, school board meeting minutes for the

February 21, 2002, state, when a board member excused McBride from writing an evaluation, "At this time, Dr. McBride has only been employed for a month."

In Delaware over 30 years ago!

In Colorado for only nine months!

So, as expected from one who retired from the Air Force in December of 2001, he started the job in Bennett in January of 2002 - not August of 2001 as he has claimed on his website.

That same campaign

Does this entitle McBride to votes? Mark Foley and Bob Ney were, too!

website claims that he (Jim McBride) terminated his employment with the Bennett, Colorado school district on "01/01/03". January 1, 2003.

That is also untrue and that is even easier to disprove. First, from the school board minutes of a Special Meeting of the "Board of Education," held on November 1, 2002, it is recorded that "Dr. Smialek moved, Mr. Zuber seconded, to accept the resignation of Dr. Jim McBride."

More conclusively, in response to the question asked of Jim McBride by the Cheyenne Herald, he wrote in his September 19, 2006 letter to the Herald, "I resigned from the Bennett school district, effective October 5, 2002."

In all he has written and all that has been

**Dr. Jim McBride**

**Experience to get the job done**

- A classroom teacher
- school administrator and district superintendent
- Instructor at the Air Force Academy
- President of the Community College of the Air Force, the largest in the world with 121 affiliated campuses and an enrollment of over 370,000
- MBA from Louisiana Technical University
- Doctorate in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of North Carolina

**A lifetime of leadership**

- 26-year veteran of the United States Air Force
- Command positions in the United States and around the world
- Once appointed State Superintendent, moved immediately to trim layer of bureaucracy, increased customer service and improved morale
- Building bridges with Wyoming's education partners
- Lifetime registered Republican
- Top vote getter in Republican party process to select a new State Superintendent

*from McBride's current campaign brochure*

written about him, he has been coyly vague about the details of his stint in Bennett, Colorado. In a write-up when he joined the McREL board, it said about McBride: "When Jim retired from the Air Force in 2001, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools in Bennett, Colorado. Jim moved to Wyoming to join the Wyoming Department of Education ..."

The implication is that McBride went directly from Bennett to WDE. That is also untrue. There are also contradictory things written about his date of hire at WDE but he wrote the Herald that it was April 2003 - six months after he lost his superintendent job in Bennett, Colorado.

*A copy of the resume and application McBride gave the Republican Central Committee was requested. That request was refused.*

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