

# **ABILENE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Phil Ashby**

Director for Communications  
One AISD Center ~ 241 Pine Street  
Abilene, TX 79601  
Phone (325) 677-1444 Ext.1585  
Fax (325) 794-1339  
Email: [philip.ashby@abileneisd.org](mailto:philip.ashby@abileneisd.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Abilene ISD Board of Trustees approved the appointment of two administrators at its Regular Meeting on Monday, April 8. Lance Fleming was named Director of Communications, replacing the retiring Phil Ashby, and Jennifer Seekins will be the new Dean of Holland Medical High School.

In another announcement, Dr. Dan Dukes, currently the Executive Director of Student Services, has been named as the new Executive Director of Special Education. He succeeds Connie Mangin, who is retiring in June after 46 years in education.

Dukes has been with AISD for 10 years, the last two as Director of Student Services. His previous administrative experience includes principal of Craig Middle School, assistant principal at Abilene High and principal of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, DC.

Mangin has been a part of the AISD Special Education Department for 39 years as a teacher, campus administrator and central office supervisor. She has been the Executive Director of Special Education since 2012. Her long career also includes experience as an instructor at the University of Mississippi and a public school teacher in Oxford, Mississippi.

Fleming comes to AISD from his alma mater, Abilene Christian University, where he is the Associate Director of Athletics for Media Relations. The Abilene High School graduate has been in the athletics communications department at ACU since 1998 and previously worked as a newspaper journalist in Abilene and Lubbock. Fleming is a regular contributing author to

*Abilene Scene* magazine, and in 2018 published his first book, *Wildcat Football: Three Cheers for the Purple and White*.

The appointment of Seekins, who owns two degrees from Hardin-Simmons University, will see her returning to the HSU campus, the location of Holland Medical High School. She currently serves as lead guidance counselor at Cooper High School and lead secondary counselor for the district. Seekins has worked for AISD since 2014 and has professional certifications as a school counselor, school principal and Licensed Professional Counselor. She recently was named the 2019 Region 14 Secondary Counselor of the Year.

Retired AISD administrator Gaile Thompson is serving as interim dean of Holland for the 2018-19 school year.

