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Newly hired SDE policy advisor decides to stay in current job

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra is revisiting plans for a new chief policy advisor after Will Goodman, who had planned to rejoin the State Department of Education Sept. 17, told her he wants to remain with the Mountain Home School District.

“I was looking forward to working with Will again, but I accept his decision and respect his loyalty to his current employer,” Superintendent Ybarra said Friday. “I am considering various options for how to move forward.”

Goodman, who served as chief technology officer for the SDE in 2015, was announced July 19 as Ybarra’s choice to replace Chief Policy Advisor Duncan Robb, who plans to step down Aug. 17 to pursue other opportunities. Goodman, director of operations and technology for the Mountain Home School District, said Friday the district needs him to remain in that role.

“When I reviewed with the Mountain Home superintendent the next steps for our major technology projects, I realized it would be a mistake for me to leave at this critical time,” Goodman said. “I appreciate Superintendent Ybarra accepting my apology and graciously putting the needs of our students first.”

The chief policy advisor works closely with legislators, education organizations and other key stakeholders on Superintendent Ybarra’s initiatives, as well as assisting in research, analysis and development of policy.

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