

Skutt teacher supported by petition says he is still employed

By Julie Anderson / World-Herald staff writer | Posted: Thursday, April 9, 2015 1:00 am

A Skutt High teacher whose former students launched an Internet campaign on his behalf said Wednesday that he remains employed at the school as far as he knows.

Matthew Eledge, an English teacher and speech coach, said he won't have a contract next year. He declined to comment further, saying he wants to be respectful of Skutt and the Omaha Archdiocese. He said he was "humbled and overwhelmed" by the support of alumni, parents and kids.

Alumni of the Catholic school posted a petition Tuesday on the website change.org asking the school to end what they see as discriminatory job practices against gays. According to the petition, Eledge was told his contract would not be renewed next year after he informed administrators of his decision to get engaged to his partner, a man.

By Wednesday afternoon, the petition had more than 32,000 signatures. A Facebook page, Let Matthew Teach, had nearly 4,000 "likes."

Meanwhile in Des Moines, supporters of a teacher at another Catholic school, Dowling High, staged a walkout Wednesday to protest a decision not to offer a full-time job to a substitute teacher who is in a same-sex relationship.