

NewsBits



Spring 2021

A reflection of our journey through COVID-19

It's hard to fathom that this pandemic began 14 months ago. While this has been a challenging time for all of us, I am very proud of how our learning community came together to support children and families, and we continue to do so today. A few months ago, we introduced the [first video](#) of a three-part video series that highlights our journey through the last year. The first part of this series showcases our efforts from March, April and May as our state shut down, schools began operating in a remote platform and we worked to provide our families with the resources they needed. Our [second video](#) continues along our journey as we reflect on the months of June through November of 2020. A great deal took place during these five months as we navigated through summer, preparing for the start of a very unique school year, making sure that we were prepared to support all our students and address their needs.



We thank our parents and community for your support and for trusting us with your children. We thank our staff for their dedication and tenacity to stay the course even when there was a great deal of uncertainty ahead of us. These videos serve as a documentation of how all our lives were affected last spring. I am confident we will emerge stronger as we learn and grow from this experience. As I look forward to the upcoming school year, I know that here in District 62, we continue to be and are **IN** this together.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Hertel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
#62workingtogether

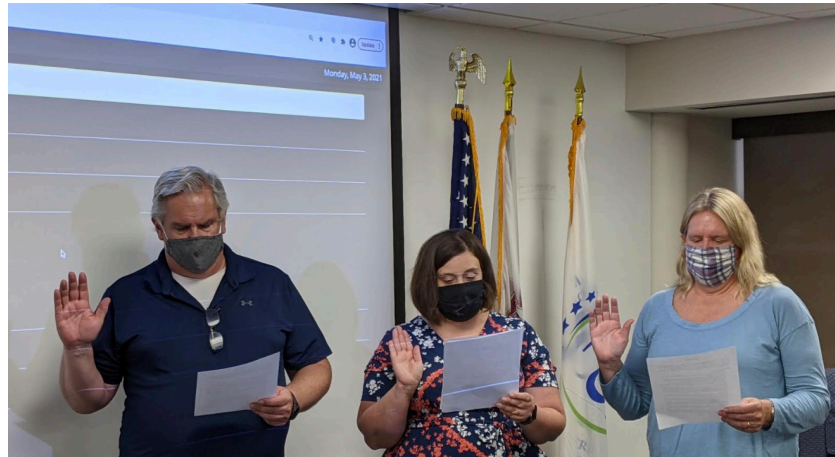
District 62 Board of Education elects officers for one-year terms

District 62's Board of Education elected officers for a one-year term at the May 3 Board of Education meeting:

President: Ronald Burton

Vice President: Beth Morley

The Board will convene its meetings on the third Monday of the month, except in January and February where the meetings will be moved to the third Tuesday and December 13, 2021 due to a conflict with winter break and March 14, 2022 due to a conflict with spring break.



District 62 extends its sincere appreciation to outgoing members Brian Inzerello and James Poskozim for their years of service to the Board of Education.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 starting at 7:00 p.m.

The complete listing of Board meetings can be found [here](#).

The District 62 Board of Education will interview candidates to serve on the Board for a two-year term with the intent to swear in the individual at the June 21, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Jeanette Weller seated to the Board of Education

Occupation: Middle school math teacher at Bensenville School District 2.

What motivated you to run for the District 62 Board of Education?

The opportunity to learn the inner workings of our school district through the lens of a board member motivated me to run for this position. I come to the board with three major perspectives: a parent, community member and middle school teacher. I want to ensure that all children in District 62 have a wonderful educational experience.

Personal information: Jeanette and her husband Zachary have two children, Ben and Hannah and dog Sadie.

Favorite quote: "Mistakes are proof that you are trying. Never give up."



District 62 revises its Action Plans

Throughout this school year, the district has remained focused on its strategic plan, even as we have navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, action plans were revised to align with the five goals to reflect the work that is taking place during such a unique school year. In addition, the strategic plan website has been revised to include our new scorecard that was created in partnership with Envisio.

Revised Action Plans

[Goal 1](#)

[Goal 2](#)

[Goal 3](#)

[Goal 4](#)

[Goal 5](#)

District 62 recognizes its Difference Makers

Last year, District 62 began a formal recognition program to honor those staff members considered “Difference Makers” who are a defining example for the learning community of District 62. This recognition program aligns directly with Goal 3 (Work Environment) of the district’s five-year [strategic plan](#). Those recognized as a Difference Maker will receive a coin to commemorate this honor. We thank our Difference Makers for doing a great deal for others without seeking recognition or acknowledgment. They make the District 62 learning community a better place through their dedication, commitment and support of public education.

Congratulations to our spring **District 62 Difference Makers:**

Dennis Polonsky always goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone’s needs are met. He is

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

The [District 62 Foundation](#) has been enthusiastically working on plans for the upcoming 2021/2022 school year. Although it may still look a little different than what previous years have looked like we hope to support the District 62 community in a meaningful way.

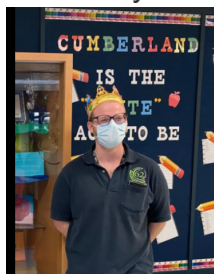
We are starting to plan events that will engage the community as well as looking towards supporting the staff and students of District 62. We want to create events that bring students from all the schools together in hopes of strengthening their community awareness and pride.

We will also try to implement our signature grant program for certified teachers in District 62. With COVID-19 restrictions still in place we hope to be able to offer some sort of grant program to teachers in the Fall.

Be well, stay strong.

constantly thinking of others before himself. In his short time at Cumberland he has made so many positive relationships especially with the BEST students. During the adaptive pause, Dennis was at Cumberland every day ready to work with a smile on his face. Dennis has made Cumberland a better place.

Since March of 2020, **Jeremy Bohne** has worked tirelessly to keep Cumberland clean and safe for students and staff. He has been a constant presence for the community. Jeremy has had to move mountains of furniture out of classrooms into makeshift storage areas. He has worked tirelessly with staff to ensure spaces are safe for the return of students and he continues to be a support throughout the day. No matter what is asked of him, Jeremy remains positive and is always willing to help anyone in need. He is deeply appreciated!



North School Teacher **Kathie Clifford** has been instrumental in promoting a positive school culture and climate for staff. She goes above and beyond for her students, constantly communicating and building relationships with parents. She checks in on her students daily and even stays after hours on Zoom to meet with parents and students. Kathie also started a sunshine theme for staff in January to brighten everyone's day with bright music and sunshine around the school.

North School's **Saul Argudo** has been an amazing custodian especially during the beginning of COVID-19! He collaborates daily to ensure safe classrooms and a clean school. Saul has worked with all of the fast changes from breakfast distribution to room changes. He is always there for our staff and students when needed to maintain a clean school and have spaces ready for students to learn!

Donna Hennessey is a dedicated and caring substitute teacher! She walks into North with the cutest sweaters that we all love to see. She is always available to substitute, even through snow! Donna is kind, compassionate and always smiling for our students!

Carrie Sargent has been instrumental in leading her team of teachers and students at Algonquin Middle School. She tirelessly advocates for students and is widely respected amongst the building. She goes above and beyond to build rapport with her students and communicates with her parents often (some daily). Algonquin is fortunate to have Carrie's positive, driven, solution-oriented leadership.

Erika Smith is a parent representative on the North Family Engagement Committee. She takes time to share ideas for family events. Erika was part of the restorative practices implemented last year with other parents to promote equity and fairness at North. She is constantly collaborating

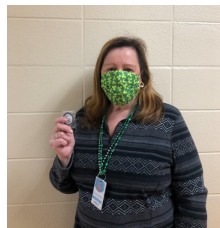
to ensure that North is a welcoming, safe and great school.

Gloria Dotson has gone above and beyond this year with the implementation of Tier III bilingual interventions at Orchard Place. It's amazing when remote students come for their intervention time, smiling and joyful ready to learn.



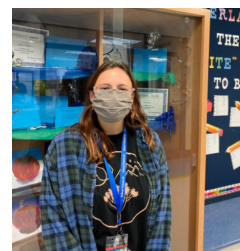
Lisa Raczkowski was recognized by team leaders for her overall contributions to Terrace. She helps staff members with tech issues, she works tirelessly with students. Lisa helps to make everyone else's jobs that much easier.

Cathy Hennelly has worn many hats such as her health clerk job, organizing schedules, helping out in the office, supply bag pick up support, spring pictures just to name a few. Cathy has gone above and beyond the past few months at Plainfield.



The Board of Education was recognized as District 62 Difference Makers for their continued support and dedication to the district during such unprecedented times. Thank you to **President Ronald Burton, Vice President Beth Morley, Stephanie Duckmann, Tina Garrett, outgoing member Brian Inzerello, Dr. Kelly Morrissey and outgoing member James Poskozim.**

First year paraeducator **Carly Hart** jumped right in to be such an important part of Cumberland Elementary School. Carly is always the first one to volunteer and goes above and beyond for students in her class and others. Carly is also such a positive ray of sunshine and is friendly to every child and staff she sees. Carly is always the first to reframe any challenging situation into a positive one and always has creative ideas to better help the kids.





Tina Mazzone has always gone above and beyond in everything she does. Ever since she began her career at D62, she has served on numerous committees, including Team Leader for her group, and takes the lead efficiently. She is a patient and kind teacher and a good role model for her paraeducators. She is extremely organized. She doesn't show frustration. Her students like her and she seems to know each student's personality in order to make them successful. She has established and maintained really good relationships with the parents/guardians of her students. She is truly an asset to Cumberland, and to D62 and deserves to be recognized for her many years of hard work.

Megan O'Donnell has been a great support at Cumberland Elementary. She has provided help with Individualized Education Program (IEP) paperwork, materials and lesson planning, tech support, classroom management and behavioral support. Megan's ongoing effort has been invaluable to both the substitute teacher and the students. She has gone above and beyond to help a colleague! She does this with grace and good humor.



Stephanie Velez-Fetterman has gone above and beyond helping out in both a Special Education classroom and in supporting a student she takes into general education Kindergarten. She is always willing to help out and has made the students transition into a general education setting seamless. She helps accommodate for the students' needs and make any modifications needed. While in that classroom, she supports all the students and is always willing to help in any way she can.

Megan Frintner was recognized by her peers at Terrace Elementary School for always being willing to jump in to help her colleagues and our students. She dives in with a lot of energy and always a smile.

FinanceBits

The response to COVID-19 has added to District 62's usual and customary expenses. Since last March, the district has added additional staff, purchased a great deal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and acquired the needed technology to support our students, who were learning in-person and remotely. We also distributed 254,617 meals at our drive-through meal pickup service from March of 2020 to March of 2021. While this has been a big commitment on the part of District 62, federal relief funds helped to offset much of these additional costs. District 62 is in a strong financial condition and should remain so in the coming years.