

NewsBits



Spring 2023

Board of Education appoints Gene Haring to two-year term



Gene Haring was appointed to the Board of Education for a two-year term at the May 15 meeting.

Haring, 71, is the former Marketing and Communications Manager for the Des Plaines Park District. He served in that role for more than 16 years.

“I look forward to working with Mr. Haring in his new role as he begins his two-year term on the Board of Education,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Mr. Haring has been an active member of the Des Plaines community for many years and as a former parent here in District 62 I appreciate his dedication to our school district. Mr. Haring and I not only collaborated through his role with the Park District but also as active members of the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation (MCYAF). Thank you to Mr. Haring for his service and commitment to the Board of Education.”

In his new role, Haring looks forward to supporting the use of communication tools to enhance community engagement.

“It’s an honor to have been selected to join the dedicated members of this Board and continue the important work of advocating for every student in District 62,” said Haring. “I’m committed to making sure we support our teachers, students, and parents so they all have the resources they need to be successful as we educate the next generation.”

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District 62 recognizes its 25-year employees, National Board Recertified Teacher and retirees

District 62 recognizes its employees for their dedication and contributions to public education.

25-Year Service Employees

- **Shannon Bembem**, Iroquois Community School
- **Manuel Bustos**, Iroquois Community School
- **Donna Cameron**, Terrace Elementary School
- **Claudia Crigler**, Early Learning Center
- **Wendy DeVitto**, Forest Elementary School
- **Donna Ellwood**, Algonquin Middle School
- **Catherine Hanley**, Algonquin Middle School
- **Elizabeth Juskiewicz**, Forest Administration Center
- **Jean Lawlor**, Algonquin Middle School
- **Jennifer Mandl**, Chippewa Middle School
- **Heather Metz**, Algonquin Middle School
- **Mary Osborn**, Early Learning Center
- **Robert Paladino**, Algonquin Middle School
- **Judy Pecucci**, Administration Center
- **Janis Steffan**, North Elementary School

2022-2023 Retirees

- **Robert Bachar**, Paraeducator, Forest Elementary School
- **Tina Beer**, Math Teacher, Algonquin Middle School
- **Donna Cameron**, Media Assistant, Terrace Elementary School
- **Wendy DeVitto**, Paraeducator, Forest Elementary School
- **Donna Ellwood**, Health Clerk, Algonquin Middle School
- **Martin Hartigan**, Stockroom Personnel, Maintenance Building
- **Lynn Hofmeister**, Business Office Manager, Administration Building
- **Katherine Leigh Radnitzer**, Media Specialist, Central Elementary School
- **Elaine Kraemer**, Health Clerk, Iroquois Community School
- **Mark Mensching**, Maintenance, Maintenance Building
- **Cindy Moss**, Administrative Assistant, Early Learning Center
- **Joan Musial**, Health Clerk, Cumberland Elementary School
- **Susan Netzel**, SPARK Preschool, Early Learning Center
- **Robert Norton**, Maintenance, Maintenance Building
- **Sylvia Roe**, Administrative Assistant, Forest Administration
- **Margaret Stiller**, Media Assistant, South Elementary School
- **Maureen Styczen**, Paraeducator, Central Elementary School
- **Margaret Winiecki**, Paraeducator, Terrace Elementary School

Forest Elementary School teacher **Joanne Zienty** was recognized this spring as one of the 336 teachers to recertify as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in 2022. National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's pedagogical skills and content knowledge.

FinanceBits

Since March 2020, the district has incurred higher expenses related to COVID-19. Some of these costs have been offset by additional federal funding. The State of Illinois has increased revenues over the last year and the state has been more current in paying its bills; this too is partially the result of increased federal funding in response to the pandemic. While state revenues have been timely, revenue the state expected to collect has declined in the last three months. The district will monitor any state delinquencies. Like other institutions and individuals, District 62 has seen larger increases in expenses due to higher inflation, however, the district remains in strong financial condition and it will successfully manage inflationary challenges.

Student artwork featured as part of Gallery 62

Congratulations to those students whose artwork was selected to be featured as part of Gallery 62:

Reese Capper, Algonquin Middle School
Mahi Shah, Central Elementary School
Nicholas Johnston, Chippewa Middle School
Allison Wager, Cumberland Elementary School
Rebecca Pelletiere, Forest Elementary School
Isa Muriel, Iroquois Community School
Andy Sugar, Iroquois Community School
Eleanor Rutherford, North Elementary School
Janine Enage, Orchard Place Elementary School
Derrick Martinez, Plainfield Elementary School
Alayah Magallanes, South Elementary School
Charlotte Sewell, Terrace Elementary School

The Gallery 62 Art Exhibit was introduced in 2008 as a way to recognize works of art created by District 62 students under the guidance of district art teachers. The Board of Education presents the original art to the parents or guardians during eighth grade promotion ceremonies.

The 2023 Gallery 62 artwork can be viewed [here](#).

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

As the school year comes to a close, the [District 62 Education Foundation](#) is closing the books on 42 staff grants that were awarded for the 2022/2023 school year. The grants, totaling \$32,000, supported enhanced learning experiences. Students had opportunities to learn from award winning authors, cruise the Chicago River, fly drones, participate in peer lunch and after school clubs, join their family members for evenings of fun and learning, and entertain the community with music.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, and our continued support of the staff and students of District 62, we will look for support from the community. A strong partnership with the Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce has led to support from its members, the small businesses of Des Plaines. They came up strong with financial support for the teachers, and subsequently the students, of District 62. We thank all of the businesses throughout Des Plaines and we look forward to growing stronger partnerships in the coming months and years.

Congratulations to all the families with students that have benefitted from the excellent educational opportunities provided by District 62. Our sites are set on fostering strong relationships with the families in the community in hopes of strengthening the district and the community. It does take a village, and the District 62 Education Foundation is proud to be part of that ongoing mission. Visit us at www.d62foundation.com

