



DISTRICT 57 REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Here we are at the end of another school year and the publication of a new spring/summer newsletter. This year is quite different, though, due to the transitions we've experienced over the past few months and those we will see in coming weeks. It is certainly a time of exciting change for District 57!

First, it was a joy to welcome many of our students back for full-time in-person learning in April. And we continue to plan for next school year, which will look much more like a school year should look. (Learn more on Page 5.) I've said it countless times, but it bears repeating: THANK YOU to the administrators, Board members, staff, families and, of course, students for being so resilient and supportive of each other during the pandemic. I will never forget how we came together and did everything we could to ensure learning continued and everyone stayed safe.

Second, District 57 will soon experience many leadership changes. When I retire on July 1, Dr. Mary Gorr will become your new superintendent. I have no doubt that I am leaving things in the most capable hands. Mary has already made significant contributions, and she will continue to be a strong and innovative leader who will carry District 57 into the future. See Page 3 for details on the other administrative changes that are coming. The individuals who have been hired have proven themselves in many capacities and are well-equipped to take on their new roles.

We also have transitions on our School Board. In April, we administered the oath of office to our new members (see the photo on Page 5), and we thanked outgoing members Brian Maye and Gerry McCluskey. They stepped down at the end of their terms, and we greatly appreciate their dedicated service to this community. In addition, we thank and recognize Board member Rachel Rothrauff, who has resigned from the Board. Anyone who would like to be considered to fill her term, which expires in 2023, should email a resume to vwebster@d57.org by May 28. The Board will do interviews and select a replacement by June 17.

I want to salute our eighth graders for their hard work through the years, and for the tenacity they displayed as they finished their D57 years in the middle of a pandemic! We're grateful to be able to celebrate the Lincoln graduates with in-person ceremonies at Prospect High School on May 27.

Thank you, District 57 community, for the opportunity to be your superintendent. It has been a great honor. I'm proud of the work we've done together and thankful to have gotten to know so many of you. I wish this wonderful community all the best in the years to come!

Dr. Elaine Aumiller
Superintendent of Schools, Mount Prospect School District 57

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ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Elaine Aumiller
Superintendent
- Adam Parisi
*Assistant Superintendent
 Finance and Operations*
- Dr. Mary Gorr
*Assistant Superintendent
 Teaching and Learning*
- Sara Tyburski
Director of Student Services
- Mark Fijor
Director of Technology

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Eileen Kowalczyk, *President*
- Kimberly Fay, *Vice President*
- Kevin Bull
- Vicki Chung
- Jennifer Ciok
- Jennifer Kobus

ARE YOU FOLLOWING
 DISTRICT 57 ON
 FACEBOOK AND TWITTER?



REUNITED! SCHOOLS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURE'S CLASSROOM AS IN- PERSON LEARNING RESUMES

Since returning to the schools for full-time in-person learning this spring, District 57 students, including these Westbrook first graders, have been excited to read, write and do science projects outdoors when the weather permits. See Page 2 for more photos of the return to the buildings. (Photo by Allyson Domalick, District 57.)

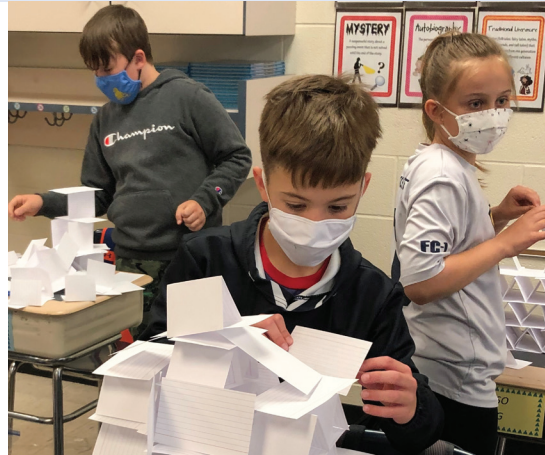
BACK IN THE BUILDINGS

STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR AWAY

Many District 57 students returned to full-time in-person learning on April 12 – their first time attending school on site every day since the pandemic closed schools on March 13, 2020. About 25 percent of students opted to continue with remote learning through the end of the school year. The rollout of the spring learning model went smoothly, thanks to the schools' extensive planning and preparation and students, families and staff remaining diligent about mitigation procedures. These photos capture the excitement of the return to school.



Lions Park fifth-grade teacher Deb Pavlowski decorated her classroom to welcome her students back. (Photo by Deb Pavlowski, District 57.)



Fairview fourth graders in Christia Hitesman's class carefully concentrate on the structures they are building, as part of a recent STEM challenge for in-person and remote students to create the tallest or strongest tower using only notecards. (Photo by Chris Trezise, District 57.)



Students sit outside at Westbrook and read their favorite LRC books on blankets on a beautiful spring day. (Photo by Morgan Nickels, District 57.)



A DIFFERENT LOOK FOR LUNCH

District 57 students, like these Westbrook first graders, enjoy lunch while sitting behind partitions with "windows." The District purchased these to ensure safety while students remove their masks to eat and drink. (Photos by Melissa Gaseor and Allyson Domalick, District 57.)

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Lincoln was able to hold many of its clubs and activities once full-time in-person learning began. This included a shortened track season for girls and boys and volleyball club for girls. (Photos by Jenny Kustra-Quinn and Bart Ruggiero, District 57.)



GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

D57 TO WELCOME A NEW SUPERINTENDENT THIS SUMMER

District 57 will face several key leadership changes on July 1, as Dr. Elaine Aumiller retires and Dr. Mary Gorr transitions into the role of superintendent.

Aumiller, who announced her retirement last June, is stepping down after 12 years of service. She has presided over a growing district with expanding needs, while being a responsible and effective steward of taxpayer resources. In addition, she has possessed a clear vision and engaged in strategic planning that has enabled District 57 to achieve excellence on many fronts, including earning a reputation as a top school district. Aumiller also was integral in the passage of the 2018 tax referendum, has made significant, necessary improvements to the school buildings, has built a first-rate, respected administrative team and has provided steady leadership through the District's most significant challenge yet – the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work since 2009 has benefited all residents who rely on District 57 schools as one of the community's most-valued assets.



Gorr, who joined District 57 in 2011, is currently assistant superintendent of teaching and learning and has managed the development and implementation of all educational programs for students and professional development for staff. Since March 2020, she also has led much of the District's COVID planning, playing a key role in the design of the remote, hybrid and in-person learning models

that have been rolled out as the situation has evolved. Previously, Gorr was principal of Westbrook, where she implemented many new student-centered initiatives. In 2015, she was recognized by the Illinois Parent Teacher Association as Outstanding Principal of the Year for all of Illinois. Gorr is certified as a Chief School Business Official (CSBO). She got her start as a classroom teacher in Glenview District 34.

The School Board led a superintendent search that attracted more than 40 qualified applicants according to Eileen Kowalczyk, Board president. "From the start, Mary stood out as an exceptional candidate," she says. "She has been an asset to the District, especially during this challenging time."

Gorr says she is grateful for the opportunity to become a superintendent in a district where she has built relationships with students, staff and families for the past decade. "I am proud of the quality and outcomes we deliver for the children of this community, and I look forward to being a responsive leader and working hard on their behalf," she says. "I'm thankful to Dr. Aumiller for bringing me to District 57 and for her strong leadership that has always placed students first."

SEE PAGE 4 FOR A TRIBUTE TO DR. AUMILLER.

'SKILLED EDUCATORS/LEADERS' TO TAKE ON NEW ROLES

The District's administrative team will look quite a bit different next school year. In addition to the superintendent transition, there will be new assistant superintendents overseeing teaching and learning and finance and operations, as well as a new Westbrook principal. The following changes go into effect July 1:



Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations: Former Lincoln principal Jason Kaiz will return to District 57 to fill this role. He replaces Adam Parisi, who has accepted a position in another district, after five years of providing financial expertise and guidance to District 57. Kaiz is currently principal of Springman Middle School in Glenview District

34, where he played a role in helping to pass the recent building bond referendum. He also provides leadership on District 34's Citizens Finance Advisory Committee. He served as principal of Lincoln from 2012 to 2016, and was an assistant principal in District 34 prior to that. In addition, Kaiz served as both assistant and interim business manager in Glencoe District 35. He is certified as a Chief School Business Official (CSBO).



Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning: Dr. Kristin Vonder Haar, Westbrook principal, has been named to this position, replacing Dr. Mary Gorr when she becomes superintendent. Vonder Haar has been Westbrook principal for the past two years and assistant principal of the school prior to that. Before joining the District, she was an

advanced learning facilitator in Arlington Heights District 25, where she led educational and staff development initiatives. She also has middle school experience, having started her career as a sixth-grade math, science and 21st-century skills teacher in Deerfield.



Principal of Westbrook: Lions Park assistant principal Danielle Dillon will start in this position when Vonder Haar moves to the central office administrative team. Dillon has been assistant principal for four years, providing professional development for staff and acting as the special education coordinator, among many other administrative duties. Prior to joining District 57, she was a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher in Park Ridge. Westbrook staff and parents provided input during the search for a new Westbrook principal.

Gorr and Dr. Elaine Aumiller worked together on the process of finding and hiring these administrators. They say they are skilled and dedicated educators and leaders who are well prepared to take on these important roles in the District. "It's exciting that we were able to hire such high-quality candidates. I couldn't be happier with the administrative team that will be in place as I become superintendent," Gorr says.

THANK YOU, DR. AUMILLER!

'STRONG, CONSISTENT, COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP' GRATITUDE FOR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



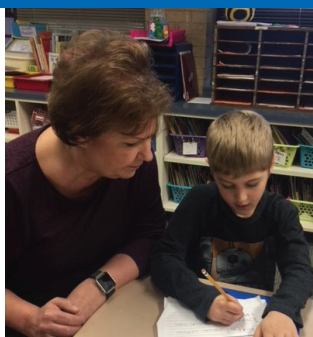
Paying tribute to staff at the Retirement and Recognition Breakfast.



Working with students to sort items for a drive benefitting hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.



Supporting the District 57 Education Foundation at the spring fundraiser, along with administrative team members Katie Kelly, Dr. Mary Gorr, Danielle Dillon and Una Durkan.



Helping a student with a writing lesson.



Honoring Westbrook's Kindness Club at a School Board meeting.



Dr. Aumiller provided steady, inspired leadership that was just what our District needed during challenging times. And so much of the success of her tenure is because she led in a way that brought out the best in others. — **Dr. Mary Gorr, Incoming Superintendent**

I feel so fortunate that I had the opportunity to learn from such a smart, strong and dedicated leader. I am grateful for Dr. Aumiller's mentorship and guidance over the years. Every day, she places students at the center of what we do. She has shown us the importance of being vulnerable, putting trust in each other, trying something new, having grace and humility, and finding humor in even the smallest of things.— **Dr. Kristin Vonder Haar, Current Westbrook Principal and Incoming Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning**

Thank you, Dr. Aumiller, for your hard work and dedication to our school district these past 12 years! I remember with a smile the day you surprisingly visited my PE class as I was teaching a first-grade badminton unit. You brought smiles and motivation to those students when you flipped off your shoes, grabbed a paddle and began to hit badminton birdies over the net to my students! They were telling me for days that they played badminton with THE Superintendent, and, of course, they wanted me to invite you to come back to play again! Remember: Retirement isn't the end of the road, it is just a turn in the road. Congratulations and enjoy your well-deserved RECESS! — **Lori Many, Retired Physical Education Teacher**

We appreciate all the work Dr. Aumiller has done for the District, especially how she has respected the professionalism of her employees over the past year. We wish her a joyful retirement! — **Loretta Rose and Elizabeth Straczek, Lincoln Teachers and Former MPEA Presidents**

Dr. Aumiller has provided strong, consistent and collaborative leadership. She has always been a professional role model and acted ethically in all her work. She implemented a strategic planning process that became an indispensable tool in providing vision, direction, accountability and continuous improvement. Most importantly, she brought a student-centered approach to every aspect of the District. Dr. Aumiller developed a strong staff to ensure D57 is successful, and led the District through a successful referendum campaign that provided much-needed resources to the District. She developed a strong foundation that will serve the District well for years to come. We are very fortunate to have been the benefactors of her service. — **Joseph Leane, Former School Board Member and Parent**

Dr. Aumiller has been instrumental in guiding our District to serve our community and, most importantly, our students. She has made the students her primary concern throughout her tenure. She was crucial in putting together a referendum committee of parents and community members who worked to get a much-needed referendum explained to the voters. She has been integral in getting our District through and thankfully past this COVID year safely. Dr. Aumiller has been a true asset to our District, and we will be forever thankful to her for it. — **Eileen Kowalczyk, Current School Board President and Parent**

For more tributes to Dr. Aumiller by members of the District 57 community, go to [this link](#).



During this time of transition, the District also will be saying goodbye and thank you to Virginia Webster (right), who is retiring after serving as secretary to the superintendent for 16 years. She is also the School Board secretary. Dr. Elaine Aumiller (left) says Webster has been an asset to the school community, is incredibly knowledgeable and is always willing to help. Roberta Flack, Westbrook School secretary, will replace Webster. Aumiller says Flack is respected at Westbrook and throughout the District and is a great fit for the role.

DISTRICT CELEBRATES RETIREES WITH LONG D57 HISTORIES

The District will hold a virtual Retirement and Recognition Celebration on June 2, to honor staff who are retiring and those who are celebrating service anniversaries. The retirees include:

- **MARY CUNNINGHAM**
Lions Park/Fairview/Westbrook Kids' Corner, 36 years
- **COLLEEN NOVAK**
Lions Park/Westbrook special education teacher, 28 years
- **AMANDA DE KOK**
Fairview teacher, 19 years
- **ROSE TRUPIANO**
Lions Park Kids' Corner, 18 years
- **JULIE LEENEY**
Fairview/Lions Park/Lincoln/Westbrook PE teacher, 33 years
- **KATHY VEGLIA**
Lincoln/Westbrook/Lions Park teacher, 35 years



Two educators who have taught and inspired thousands of young musicians over the years are retiring. Laura Harris (left) and Greg Fudala have helped build the District 57 music program, which is highly regarded among Prospect High School feeder schools. Harris, who directs the orchestra, has been with the District for 22 years, and Fudala, who directs the band, has 27 years of service. In May, they each directed their final concerts, which were held on the Lincoln lawn. Families were thrilled to attend the first Lincoln performances since the pandemic started.

SEE YOU ON AUG. 18!

District 57 plans to return to full in-person learning for all students in 2021-2022. Administrators and staff are in the process of planning and preparing for the fall. This includes the application of federal ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding, which the schools will be using in the new school year for programs that support learning and address learning loss, as well as meet students' social emotional needs.

Less than five percent of families have requested to have their students continue remote learning next year. The District will continue to monitor state guidance, but the current plan is to offer remote sections when enrollment numbers are high enough to warrant a dedicated remote teacher. If numbers are too low for this, a concurrent learning model will be implemented. Concurrent learning is similar to the current livestream model, but it includes targeted improvements designed to enhance the experience for remote students – for example, technology upgrades such as web cameras and interactive flat screens/carts in classrooms and additional instructional assistants to provide support. The District also will offer focused professional development for concurrent teachers to support their success in implementing this model.

Discounted registration for next school year is underway through June 21; information was emailed to parents/guardians. The first day of classes for grades one to eight is Aug. 18. Find the complete school year calendar at this [link](#).



NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

On April 29, the District administered the oath of office to four new and returning School Board members, who were elected on April 6 to serve four-year terms. The Board also once again selected Eileen Kowalczyk to serve as president and selected Kimberly Fay as vice president. Board members pictured here (left to right): Vicki Chung, Jennifer Kobus, Kimberly Fay, Rachael Rothrauff, Jennifer Ciok, Eileen Kowalczyk and Kevin Bull. (Rothrauff has resigned from the Board; see Dr. Aumiller's message on Page 1 for details about how her spot will be filled.)