

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64
Statement of Board President Anthony Borrelli
March 18, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

As President of the Board, on January 30, 2014, I had the pleasure of introducing Dr. Laurie Heinz as the next Superintendent for District 64 with the hope that was a task never to be repeated during my time on the Board. During her tenure of 5 years, Dr. Heinz has brought leadership, vitality and a vision for the District helping to reestablish the District as a destination district for staff and the community. Obviously, we have seen much over the past 5 years. Capital improvements have at times dominated with costs over \$40 million, yet with a decrease in the district levied community tax burden all the while avoiding deficit spending. But capital improvements have been the tip of the iceberg. Safety enhancements, secure vestibules; curriculum reviews and content enhancements; improved academic rigor; improved staff support; improved student-accessed hardware and software technology; revised evaluation tools for staff and administration; renewed labor contracts with the PREA, PRTAA, and the newly formed SCC; a revamped and expanded Student Services Department; all of which are just a few items that have been successfully to task.

So it was with great discomfort that on December 12, 2018 the District learned that it was time for a change as Dr. Heinz accepted the challenge of moving to the second largest elementary only school district in the state. It was this Board's unenviable task to start the process of seeking another Superintendent with whom to convey a progressive vision for the growth of our children, physically and mentally. That individual would embody the energy and the means to create and lead the district in the formation of a model in which staff, administration, the community and the Board unite in mutual trust and cooperation to provide an exemplary academic and social emotional launching pad for our children as they prepare for the future. It is fair to state that without the Board's total immersion, the help and support of the Administration, staff and community, we could not have gotten to this point so swiftly and so securely in our decision process and with our final decision. Our many thanks for your cumulative participation.

With the unfailing help of the current administration, who bravely took the mantle, the Board sought out a search firm to guide the process. With a national reach, the position was advertised and respondents applied. Received were 30 applications, 27 of which were from Illinois. That pool was winnowed down, 14 were interviewed by our consultants, while 7 individuals were finally advanced to the Board. From that 7, our two finalists had meetings with our Stakeholder Interview Committee or Superintendent Profile Select Committee, comprised of staff, parents and community members, extensive time meeting with the Board and enduring background checks and site visits which were completed.

At this time on behalf of the Board and community, I would like to thank those community and staff members of that Stakeholder Interview Committee for volunteering their valuable service in participation of their portion of the interview and for providing valuable feedback to the Board on the candidates.

Of the two finalists, the Board's preferred candidate has a long, rich and experienced background in the education field.

He has served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in districts such as Northbrook 27, Mundelein 120, Morton Grove 70, Highland Park 112, and Arlington Heights 25. Most recently, he has served as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning in Arlington Heights 25, and in that capacity has provided leadership in curriculum, instruction and assessment for 800 staff members and over 5,500 students conducted over 9 buildings.

Our candidate believes in a philosophical focus that all decisions are based on what is best for the children. In the process of gathering information to reach a decision, again, based on the needs of the charge, he believes in wide and varied input to shape the conversation and community desires of an issue. A skilled communicator with an open and appealing style which will encourage conversation and relationships, through honesty and integrity, he builds trust and so builds solid relationships with which conversation and information flow to reach the desired result. As the leader of our District, he seeks to motivate and inspire and in turn be inspired from others. He understands the importance and necessity to listen and understand the viewpoints of others, to unite individuals, to pool their talents together, to appreciate and recognize what is working well and to pinpoint what needs attention.

Obtaining his doctorate in Educational Leadership from National Louis University in 2008, I present to the community Dr. Eric Olson as the Board of Education's candidate for Superintendent of District 64.