

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

APRIL 30, 2025



Congratulations

Lake County Educator of the Year Nominees!



The Lake County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is hosting the Fourth Annual Educator of the Year Ceremony on May 7, 2025, at the Lake County Fairgrounds. School districts across the county were invited to submit one nomination per category for the awards. All honorees are invited to attend the event. This year, CCSD 46 has nominated the following outstanding educators and support staff:

In this edition:



- CCSD 46 Welcomes New Administrators
- Board of Education Reorganization
- Technology: Chromebook Collection
- 2025-2026 School Registration
- CCSD 46 Food Drive
- Foundation 46 Update
- BOE Meeting Review

- **Michelle Williams** (PC) - Classroom Elementary/Early Childhood Teacher
- **Yvonne Schmid** (GMS) - Classroom Middle School Teacher
- **Diann Hunter** (GMS) - Student Support Personnel
- **Cinny Lamberti** (GMS) - Early Career Educator
- **Yahaira Alvarez** (WV) - Educational Service Personnel
- **Lilia Erb** (PV) - Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher

Good luck to all of our CCSD 46 nominees! More information on this event can be found on the ROE website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR Calendar



- MAY 05-09 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- MAY 07 - Lake County Educator of the Year Award Ceremony
- MAY 14 - Late Start Day
- MAY 14 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School 6:00pm
- MAY 21 - Next District Newsletter



CCSD 46 WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATORS

CCSD 46 is pleased to announce Ms. Amber Bowgren as the new Director of ML Services for the District, and Mr. Ryan Lazar as the new Assistant Principal at Frederick School. Both will be joining CCSD 46 in July.

Ms. Bowgren will be joining CCSD 46 from Harvard CUSD 50, where she has served as Bilingual and Dual Language Coordinator and the Director of Bilingual and Dual Language Programs for the past eight years. Prior to that, Ms. Bowgren served as an Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, and World Language Spanish Teacher at McHenry High School District 156. Ms. Bowgren is also an Adjunct Professor at Aurora University, where she teaches classes for the ESL endorsement. Ms. Bowgren's extensive work in developing Multilingual and Dual Language programs, fostering relationships, and her commitment to professional development helped her stand out as the next Director of ML Services for CCSD 46.

Mr. Lazar will be joining CCSD 46 from Gurnee School District 56, where he has served as principal for the past four years, as Assistant Principal for eight years, and as a Teacher for eight years. Ryan's extensive work with MTSS, assessment data, his ability to foster relationships, and his commitment to professional development helped him stand out as the next instructional leader for Frederick School.



BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION

At the April 23rd Board of Education meeting, we offered our thanks and best wishes to two outgoing Board of Education members while also welcoming two newly elected members. Board President, Dr. Stephen Mack, and Board Member Mr. Jim Weidman were also sworn in for another four years of service to the CCSD 46 Board of Education.

We said goodbye to both **Jessica Albert**, member since her appointment to the Board in November 2021, and **Jason Lacroix**, member since his election in 2017. Midway through the meeting, both Board Members were acknowledged for their commitment to public education and the skills they each brought to their elected positions.



Following the adjournment *sine die*, the Board had a short recess for refreshments, and the newly elected Board Members took their Oath of Office and were seated.

We welcome **Mrs. Hillary Halverson** and **Ms. Maureen Heun** to the Board of Education to serve four-year terms from 2025-2029.

Mrs. Hillary Halverson enjoys selfless service and hopes to both act as a liaison between the community & schools and to reinforce the progress of the district. She has served on two Lake County 501c3 boards in numerous roles including secretary and various chairs. She also founded and runs a writers' group designed to support local writers. She is a former Woodland Middle School art teacher and a prize-winning author. Mrs. Halverson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education from the University of Illinois, with one semester from the Marchutz School of Arts in Aix-en-Provence, France, and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and Leadership from St. Xavier University. She and her husband have two children who are currently students at GMS and GCHS.

Ms. Maureen Heun earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Millikin University, a Master of Arts in Professional Writing from Illinois State University, and a Master of Education in Secondary English Education from DePaul University. Ms. Heun was a tenured English teacher for 12 years at Stevenson High School, and taught part-time at College of Lake County before accepting positions with the State of Illinois. Ms. Heun is a certified instructor in Mental Health First Aid with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. She and her husband live in Round Lake and have three children, all of whom were educated in CCSD 46 schools.

TECHNOLOGY: END OF THE YEAR CHROMEBOOK COLLECTION

Ms. Amanda Pelsor, Director of Innovation

At the end of the school year, all student Chromebooks will be collected so that they can be cleaned and repaired. The technology team will have all devices ready for students on the first day of school in August.

We will not be collecting Chromebook chargers from each student. Parents and students should find a safe storage space for their chargers so they can be easily accessible for the start of school.

Students who are attending one of our summer school options will have a device issued to them for the duration of the program. Any families that feel they must have a Chromebook over the summer may sign one out from our technology department June 3 - 6, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The CCSD 46 Technology office is located at 450 N Barron Blvd. - in front of Grayslake Middle School. Please bring your student(s) with you since they will also need to sign the [Chromebook Sign Out Form](#). Please note that current 8th-grade students and anyone else leaving the district are not eligible for a summer Chromebook.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION - ONGOING



As we head into spring, our buildings will soon begin to build classes for the 2025-2026 school year. This is one of the most important tasks to prepare for the upcoming school year. Our goal is to place students in the best possible setting for them to learn by building classes that are balanced in terms of learning needs and styles, gender, emotional and social development, academic achievement, and behavior. Therefore, it is important for us to have our new and returning students register for the 2025-2026 school year as early as possible.

Time is running out to take advantage of our \$25 “Early Bird Discount” for families that complete the online application process. Make sure to register and submit payment before the June 3rd deadline to take advantage of this savings.

Please be advised that for registration to be complete, the online application must be submitted with all necessary supporting documents, and a payment or payment plan must be received. Student schedules and transportation assignments will not be released in August until registration is complete.

Pre-K students must complete the Early Childhood Screening and qualify for one of the early childhood programs PRIOR to completing the registration application. For more information regarding the Early Childhood program, please contact the CCSD 46 Early Childhood Center at (847) 543-6204.

Visit the CCSD 46 website for more information and to register now: <https://d46.org/registration/>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOOD DRIVE



Many thanks to our supportive community, which donated to the Community Engagement Committee's Food Drive. Food items were delivered to the Avon Township Office on Monday, April 28th, and sorted by CEC and PTO volunteers.

More information on Avon Township services can be found on the Avon Township website: <https://www.avonil.us>



FOUNDATION 46 UPDATE

Barnfest 2025

Barnfest 2025, hosted by Foundation46 on April 26 at Jesse Oaks Barn in Gages Lake, was a resounding success! The evening was filled with laughter, and community spirit as attendees enjoyed games, delicious food, refreshing drinks, a free mechanical bull, and BINGO. Together, we raised money to support innovative educational grants for CCSD46 staff.



Since its inception in 2016, Barnfest has become a cherished tradition, bringing together the community to celebrate and support the incredible staff and members of District 46. The funds raised directly contribute to enhancing the learning experience for our students through various grants and projects.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to making Barnfest 2025 an unforgettable evening. Your support plays a vital role in enriching the educational journey of our students. We look forward to celebrating with you again next year!



Congratulations to Dina Pierce – 2024 Tom Meskel Commitment to Education Award Winner!

Foundation46 is thrilled to honor Dina Pierce as the 2024 recipient of the Tom Meskel Commitment to Education Award! Dina has been a beacon of dedication, compassion, and community spirit in District 46 for over 25 years. Whether bringing parents from around the community together, leading PTO efforts at multiple schools, coaching Science Olympiad events, volunteering at events throughout the community, or opening her home to students for hands-on learning, Dina has given selflessly to support, encourage, and uplift every child she encounters. Her belief that “it takes a village” has shaped a legacy of connection and care that continues to enrich our schools and inspire others.

Dina’s warmth radiates far beyond the classroom walls. Her golden heart builds lasting relationships with the students in our community and leaves a positive imprint on all who know her. Her unwavering commitment, generosity of spirit, and boundless energy have made her a true cornerstone of the D46 community. We celebrate Dina not only for all she’s done, but for who she is: a model of lifelong service, quiet leadership, and heart-first dedication. Dina has been a pillar of support, leadership, and inspiration in our community for decades. Congratulations, Dina, and thank you for being a shining light in our schools!



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

CCSD 46 Board of Education Meeting Review is a brief summary of events and topics of discussion that occur at general board meetings.

We welcome you to join us at our meetings or watch our live video stream on the CCSD 46 website. We have two opportunities for public comments at our meetings. Board meeting schedules, agendas, video links, and minutes are available on the [BOE webpage](#).

Upcoming Meetings: May 14 (one meeting in May), June 4, June 18

All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

GENERAL MEETING: April 23, 2025

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the Falcon Room of Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the agenda, visitors to the meeting are invited to address the board for the first of two public comment opportunities. No comments were made.



The meeting began with a presentation by the Park Campus Leader of the Pack. Led by Jenn Voss, Dean of Students at Park Campus, this student group consists of seventh and eighth grade students who work together to support school activities, build a strong sense of community, and foster a positive learning environment. During their presentation, the students highlighted their accomplishments throughout the year and shared upcoming plans for the program. They also shared the results of a recent survey of eighth grade students to learn more about what the students enjoy most at school. The students shared that ELA (English Language Arts) and math emerged as the favorite subjects. Students had fun making helmets in science lab, volleyball was the top pick in PE class, and music was the most loved encore class. The Leader of the Pack members have taken on greater leadership roles this year, advocating for both the concerns and celebrations at Park Campus. They collaborate closely with staff members to help make Park Campus an even better place to learn and grow.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Following the presentation, President Mack requested a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order for the meeting in order for the Board and audience to participate in a sustainability activity to offer feedback on how circular economy is present in our community and its impact on students and staff.

Once the official meeting reconvened, Board reports were presented as well as the Superintendent report, and Student Representative reports. The Board of Education extended warm wishes for a Happy Administrative Professionals Day to Sue Walker and all of the administrative professionals across the district. They expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and invaluable support these professionals provide each day.

Dr. Mack shared that he attended the inaugural track and field meet between Grayslake Middle School and Park Campus held on May 17th at Grayslake North High School.



Student Representatives Jessica German and Julia League shared highlights of the end-of-the-year activities at Park Campus. Kindergarten-4th grade events included an Earth Day book swap, gardening, and lessons on animal senses. In 5th-8th grade, students are participating in a wax museum and interactive science labs, as well as reading *Flowers for Algernon*.

Mrs. Jessica Albert wished everyone a happy, belated Earth Day.

Mrs. Tamika Nash shared that planning is underway for the Juneteenth celebration, scheduled for June 19th from 5:00-7:00pm.

Mrs. Kristy Braden invited everyone to join her in marching in the Pride Parade on June 8th at 12:00pm.

Mr. Jim Weidman shared that the Historical Society will dedicate a plaque on Saturday, April 26 at 9:00am in memory of four village employees who lost their lives in the line of duty in 1974. The dedication will take place across from the Village Hall.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Lynn Glickman welcomed students from Grayslake Central High School and expressed her appreciation for their presence. She extended a heartfelt thank you to Sue Walker and all of the administrative professionals across the district for their dedication and invaluable contributions.

Dr. Glickman shared that the Science Olympiad season has concluded and celebrated students' achievements in several categories including Towers, Anatomy and Physiology, Crime Busters, Air Trajectory, Write It Do It, Entomology, and Microbe Mission. She also announced that BarnFest will be held on Saturday, April 26th, from 6:00-10:00 at Jesse Oaks Barn.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

In closing, Dr. Glickman offered sincere thanks to the outgoing Board members. She acknowledged Jessica Albert for bringing deep thought and analysis to Board discussions, asking insightful questions, and approaching every topic with a fresh perspective and great empathy for others. She recognized Jason Lacroix for his exceptional listening skills and his unique ability to pose questions that bring clarity to discussions.

Dr. Chris Wolk, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief staffing update, noting that he has been closely monitoring student enrollment. He announced that both Avon and Park Campus will be adding a new section of 2nd grade for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Amanda Pelsor, Director of Innovation, shared that student Chromebooks will be collected during the last week of school to allow for cleaning and repairs over the summer. Families may request a loaner device for use over the summer.

President Mack then requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Minutes from previous meetings, the Personnel Report, FOIA Review, Exception Report, Accounts Payable Report, Treasurer's Report, and Property Disposal Report. The motion carried.

Action Items voted on by the Board for this meeting included:

- Approval of Amber Bowgren as the Director of Multilingual Services.
Approved: 7-0
- Approval of Ryan Lazar as the Assistant Principal of Frederick School.
Approved: 7-0
- Approval of a Resolution to Honor the Board of Education Service of Jessica Albert.
Approved: 7-0
- Approval of a Resolution to Honor the Board of Education Service of Jason Lacroix.
Approved: 7-0

Each Board member took a moment to personally thank outgoing members Jessica Albert and Jason Lacroix for their dedication, service, and commitment to Community Consolidated School District 46.

This Board, having no further business, adjourned sine die for a short recess before the Oath of Office was administered to the newly elected members. Kristy Braden administered the Oath of Office for Hillary Halverson, Maureen Heun, Stephen Mack, and Jim Weidman. Following the Oath, the members voted for Tamika Nash to serve as President Pro Tem during the board reorganization. Mrs. Nash called the meeting to order, and nominations were approved for Dr. Stephen Mack as Board President, Ms. Kristy Braden as Board Vice-President, and Mrs. Tamika Nash as Board Secretary. All motions carried unanimously.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Unfinished Business, which are unresolved issues that were previously brought before the Board to be discussed further, included:

- None

New Business, which are new issues for the Board to discuss, included the following:

- Board Meeting Calendar for 2025-2026

The Board of Education reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year. The Board plans to hold two meetings per month in September, November, January, February, April, and June, and one meeting per month in July, August, October, December, March, and May. The calendar was thoughtfully planned to avoid conflicts with major religious holidays. The Board is scheduled to approve the meeting calendar at its May 14 meeting.

- Food Service Contract with OrganicLife Foodservice

At the March 20, 2024, Regular Board meeting, the Board of Education awarded a contract to OrganicLife, LLC to serve as the district's Food Service Management Company (FSMC) for the 2024–2025 school year. At the March 19, 2025, Board meeting, representatives from OrganicLife provided a Food Service Update, which included an overview of the school year's start, student nutrition, and survey results. They also reported a significant increase in meal participation, approximately 11,000 more meals served from August 2024 through February 2025 compared to the previous FSMC. As outlined in the original contract, annual rate adjustments for breakfast and lunch meals follow the Consumer Price Index for "Food Away from Home," which increased by 3.6% over the past year. The administration is recommending renewal of the contract with OrganicLife for the 2025–2026 school year.

Board member Mr. Jim Weidman asked whether there have been any changes to reimbursements from the State of Illinois or the federal government.

Board member Mrs. Kristy Miller inquired if the Resource Conservation Committee could work with OrganicLife to provide triple Bottom Line measures that help the district reduce waste.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION



As the meeting drew to a close, topics for future agenda items were discussed, and the public once again had an opportunity to address the Board of Education. No comments were made during public comment. The Board adjourned the general meeting at 7:52 pm and entered into closed session.

The next scheduled Board of Education general meeting on May 14, 2025, will be held at 6:00 pm and live-streamed online. Please visit d46.org/board-of-education for more information.

Stephen Mack, EdD, President

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Jim Weidman, Member

Term: 2021-2025

Member Since: 2013

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SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 30

6:30 - 8pm | Drop-In

Families, Ages 5 & Under



 **LAURA FAVER DIAS**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 62

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