

CCSD 89 Board welcomes new member, elects Jay Lerch as Board President

Three CCSD 89 Board of Education members were elected to leadership positions and Jessica McGee was sworn in as a new Board member at a recent organizational meeting.

Jay Lerch was elected Board President; Yannick Koger was elected Board Vice President; Scott Pope was re-elected as Board Secretary Pro Tem.

Lerch had previously been Vice President of the Board. The previous Board President, Haydee Núñez, nominated Lerch to be Board President. Núñez remains a member of the Board of Education.

In April, McGee was elected to fill the seat of Ben Yates, who did not run for re-election. Koger and Pope were also re-elected in April. Learn more about all Board members at www.ccsd89.org/boardmembers

Jay Lerch

Lerch has lived in the district for more than a decade. He and his wife have a son at Glen Crest Middle School. Lerch is currently the payroll manager at UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago.

Yannick Koger

Koger and his wife have three girls in CCSD 89 schools. Koger has participated in the Arbor View PTC and the district's strategic plan committees. He is a marketing analytics consultant for Meta Platforms Inc.

Scott Pope

Pope has been active in a variety of PTC-sponsored events and as a parent volunteer at Westfield School. He works at Argonne National Laboratory. He and his wife have three children who attend or graduated from CCSD 89.

Jessica McGee

McGee has worked as a school psychologist at the elementary and secondary levels since 2007. She is currently a school psychologist in West Aurora School District 129, where she supports students' social-emotional learning and academic progress. She and her husband have three children in CCSD 89 schools.



Back row, left to right: Newly elected Board Member Jessica McGee, Board Vice President Yannick Koger, Board Member Steve Neurauter, Board Secretary Pro Tem Scott Pope, Board Member Donna Kemp

Front row, left to right: Board President Jay Lerch, CCSD 89 Superintendent Doug Eccarius, Board Member Haydee Núñez

Glen Crest Middle School, Westfield Elementary welcome new principals

Experienced administrators have been selected to lead Glen Crest Middle School and Westfield Elementary School.

Brett McPherson

Before he was unanimously approved to be the next Glen Crest principal, Brett McPherson was the principal at Belvidere Central Middle School. McPherson also served as principal at Genoa-Kingston High School for five years and principal of Genoa-Kingston Middle School for two years. He was a classroom teacher for eight years.

McPherson was interested in working at Glen Crest because of the school's great statewide reputation, which he had heard about through the Illinois Principals Association. He knew he wanted to come to Glen Crest when he met staff members during the interview process.

"I was just blown away. They had great things to say about the kids and the culture at Glen Crest," McPherson said. "I'm all about students. School culture and school pride are very important to me. I want students, staff, and parents to feel comfortable at their school."

As principal of Belvidere Central, which has more than 900 students, McPherson set build-wide goals of increasing student achievement for all students. He led the effort to create a recovery intervention for students who needed additional support.

"Middle school is definitely where I want to be. I like that the students are still trying to figure out who they are," he said. "We can help them figure that out."



Brett McPherson

Kristen Ulery

Kristen Ulery was unanimously approved as Westfield's principal on May 15. Prior to being selected as Westfield's principal, Ulery had been the director of literacy for Community Unit School District 300 in Algonquin.

She has also served as principal of Madison Elementary School in Skokie for six years and principal of Washington Elementary School in Glenview for four years.

Ulery's focus on supporting student learning and strong instructional background impressed the team that met her during the interview process.

Ulery was immediately interested in applying at Westfield because she is familiar with the area. Her family attended church in Glen Ellyn for more than a decade.

"I have always heard such positive things about District 89," Ulery said. "I love that there's such a strong sense of community around the school because that's something that really speaks to me. I value building relationships with students, staff, and families."

Ulery wants Westfield to continue to be a safe place where kids get high-quality, engaging instruction and love coming to school.

"I want there to be a partnership that has open communication and connection with Westfield families because we all have the same goal, which is supporting the kids," she said.



Kristen Ulery

Stay connected with CCSD 89!



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youtube.com/@CCSD89

Thank you to the 2023 CCSD 89 retirees

The 2023 CCSD 89 retirees gave a combined 261 years to the district. They leave an incredible legacy of commitment to children and co-workers.

Thank you to Sally Cassidy, technology; Robin Dye, Park View; Lynda Goldberg, Arbor View; Michelle Gower, Briar Glen; Rickey Hughes, Briar Glen; Marcia Johnson, Arbor View; Jill Lang, Park View; Carol Marshall, Glen Crest; Kim Price, Glen Crest; Maureen Romano, Briar Glen; and Barb Tomasek, Park View.

See a video tribute to each of the retirees at www.youtube.com/@ccsd89

Emily Tammaru: Thank you for making this school district such an exceptional place

As I close out my 16 years in Community Consolidated School District 89, I want to thank the community for its strong support of young learners.

It has been a joy to serve a district where residents place a very high value on public education.

Public education has become so integrated into our daily lives that it can sometimes be difficult to see how miraculous this institution truly is. Our public schools are a promise from the community that every single child will have access to resources and services that will inspire them and support their learning.

Year after year, as we met wonderful and unique children, the community banded together to make sure kids had what they needed. Sometimes that was food. Sometimes that was a device that allowed a student to speak for the first time. Sometimes that was new clubs and activities. And sometimes it was improved heating and cooling systems throughout the building. Each time, families partnered with our staff to improve the life of a child and proved the community's priorities.

As I reflect on those partnerships, I can't help but think about people like

Ina and Mel Konsoer, two residents whose children left our schools many years ago but continue to share their energy and resources with our students. Ina and Mel are two examples of the many, many people who freely give their time to help make schools better.

I also think about the wonderful middle-school student who has been part of our district since pre-school. She has a disability that significantly affects her speech and mobility. By partnering with her parents, our incredible staff has been able to support her first independent steps and expand her ability to communicate. Public education has been a key ingredient in these milestones. Of course, what I will remember most from my time here are the smiles on students' faces as they walk into their classrooms. Public education is where the exceptional happens every day because of you.

My hope is that the schools always remain a centerpiece that draws people to this community and draws people together within the community.

Thank you for welcoming me to your home. I hope that together, we have made this place a little bit better and a little stronger.

It has been an honor and I'm so grateful that we shared this time together.



Emily K. Tammaru

Tutoring program expands to elementary level

An afterschool tutoring program that has provided crucial academic support to middle school students in CCSD 89 will now be expanding to the elementary school level.

Starting next school year, Park View will be the first CCSD 89 elementary school to host the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) afterschool tutoring and literacy program. The GECRC program will be open to students in kindergarten through fifth grade who need additional academic support, qualify for free and reduced lunch, and often need language services.

"We are excited to work with Park View to create access to valuable afterschool tutoring support for more students in our community and serve as a great feeder program for our Glen Crest program," said GECRC Executive Director Leah Harding.

After GECRC launched its tutoring program at Glen Crest in 2020, CCSD 89 set a goal to expand to the elementary levels. The Park View program was able

to open earlier than expected thanks to GECRC's work securing several grants including a significant contribution from the DuPage Foundation.

GECRC piloted a small Park View program during the 2022-23 school year; 12 students met for a weekly "lunch bunch" that provided literacy and social-emotional support. On average, GECRC annually provides cost-free afterschool and summer programming to 300 students in CCSD 89 and Glen Ellyn District 41.

How you can help

If you would like to donate to GECRC, visit: www.gecrc.com/donate-today/

You can also donate by mailing a check to GECRC, 346 Taft Avenue, Suite 205, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

In addition to monetary donations, the Park View program will also be looking for volunteers to tutor and mentor students. GECRC welcomes tutors from local high schools, colleges, and community groups to work with students from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

To volunteer with GECRC, go to: www.gecrc.com/volunteer



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY
17

Board of Education meeting
Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

AUG
21

Staff returns to buildings
All CCSD 89 staff members will start the 2023-24 school year with two days of planning meetings

AUG
21

Board of Education meeting
Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

AUG
23

First day of the school year!
Welcome back! Students will start the 2023-24 school year on Wednesday, August 23

AUG
23

Blood drive at Glen Crest
Community invited to donate blood at Glen Crest Middle School
2-6:30 p.m.

SEPT
4

No school
All CCSD 89 schools closed for Labor Day. All schools will re-open a normal schedule on Tuesday, September 5.



Spartan girls basketball earns conference tournament championship with OT win

The Glen Crest Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team clinched the DuPage Metro Valley Association Conference tournament championship title with an overtime win.

In March, the Spartans faced Herrick Middle School in the championship game. The game was close all evening with both teams trading the lead. With just seconds left in the game, Glen Crest's Gianna Langert hit two free throws to tie the score and send the game to overtime. In overtime, Emma Full scored all of Glen Crest's seven points. The Spartans won the game 33-28.

"The season couldn't have ended any better," said Glen Crest coach Danny Sheridan. "It's nice to end the season with a game they're all going to remember."

Members of the eighth-grade girls basketball team were: Kylan Anderson, Bella Beltran, Izzy Breault, Alaina Burke, Kaitlin Erickson, Emily Everett, Emma Full, Savanna Hagedorn, Nina Hendricksen, Addison Kite, Marlena Kendra, and Gianna Langert. Managers for the team were Taylor Peterson and Fatimah Shahid.

CCSD 89 AT A GLANCE

2228
STUDENTS

1535
elementary
693
middle school

22%
LOW INCOME
9.8%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEARNERS

63%
OF STUDENTS
COMPLETED A
HIGH-SCHOOL-LEVEL
MATH CLASS WHILE
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL



FIVE
SCHOOLS
ALL NAMED
COMMENDABLE OR
EXEMPLARY
BY STATE OF ILLINOIS

159
TEACHERS
73%
HAVE A MASTER'S
DEGREE OR HIGHER





CCSD 89 SCORES ON NATIONAL MEASUREMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

National growth/achievement percentile - MATH

| Grade | CCSD 89  | State average  |
|---------|---|---|
| First | 93 | |
| Second | 88 | |
| Third | 86 | 50 |
| Fourth | 91 | 46 |
| Fifth | 82 | 42 |
| Sixth | 78 | 43 |
| Seventh | 68 | 45 |
| Eighth | 87 | 46 |

National growth/achievement percentile - READING

| Grade | CCSD 89  | State average  |
|---------|---|---|
| First | 97 | |
| Second | 88 | |
| Third | 90 | 52 |
| Fourth | 85 | 52 |
| Fifth | 80 | 50 |
| Sixth | 80 | 50 |
| Seventh | 84 | 53 |
| Eighth | 78 | 51 |



2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fiscal responsibility:** Standard & Poor's rated the district's bonds AA+, a rating reserved for the most conservative and financially secure districts. This led to \$225,000 in savings on interest payments. The district also earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials for the 22nd consecutive year.
- **Mental-health support:** The district added two psychologists to ensure every school has a full-time psychologist to support students' mental-health needs. Also, the district's redesigned multi-tiered system of support provide individualized interventions to maximize each student's opportunities for accelerated academic achievement and personal growth.
- **Reading resources:** The district adopted the "Into Reading" elementary resource that will deliver standards-based, flexible, and innovative learning experiences built on best teaching practices and educational research.

CCSD 89 summer construction schedule

In June of 2022, more than 71 percent of the voters supported a school district proposal for health, safety, and accessibility projects at all five CCSD 89 schools. The bulk of construction will take place in the summer of 2023 and the summer of 2024. Construction will limit accessibility to most schools during the summer. Crews began work on May 26 – one day after the last day of the school year. You can see the latest construction information at www.ccsd89.org/construction

ARBOR VIEW

2023 work:

- Replace multiple heating, ventilation, and air conditioning rooftop units, add one rooftop unit
- Replace coal tar/asphalt roof with rubber roof
- Relocate and redesign the school's main entrance
- Replace boilers that provide heat to school
- Replace/repair deteriorated exterior, interior doors
- Replace ceilings, lights, wheelchair lift, cafeteria tables
- Replace phone system



Future work:

- Replace parking lot and bus lane
- Remodel kitchen
- Repair storm drain

BRIAR GLEN



Note: 2023 summer school took place at Briar Glen.

2023 work:

- Replace phone system
- Redesign school's main entrance

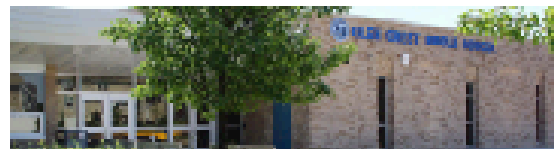
Future work:

- Replace heating/air conditioning air handlers
- Replace parking lot, deteriorated sidewalks
- Replace boilers that provide heat to school
- Replace exterior windows, deteriorated doors
- Replace playground blacktop
- Remodel kitchen
- Replace ceilings, lights, cafeteria tables
- Replace fire alarm system

GLEN CREST

2023 work:

- Redesign and relocate the school's main entrance
- Replace multiple heating, ventilation, and air conditioning rooftop units
- Replace coal tar/asphalt roof with rubber roof
- Replace deteriorated exterior doors
- Install new wheelchair lift
- Replace boilers that provide hot water to school
- Replace phone system



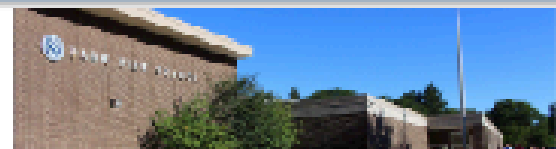
Future work:

- Replace parking lot, deteriorated sidewalks
- Replace water main to the building
- Remodel kitchen

PARK VIEW

2023 work:

- Replace multiple heating, ventilation, and air conditioning rooftop units
- Replace deteriorated doors, windows
- Replace phone system
- Replace ceilings and lights
- Replace skylight



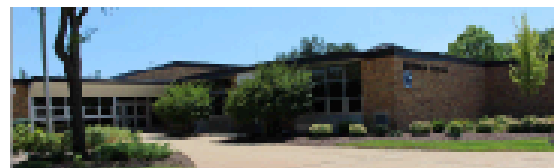
Future work:

- Replace parking lot
- Remodel kitchen
- Remove berms behind school
- Replace storm drain

WESTFIELD

2023 work:

- Replace two heating, ventilation, and air conditioning rooftop units and one rooftop chiller
- Replace coal tar/asphalt roof with rubber roof
- Replace deteriorated doors, windows
- Replace phone system
- Replace ceilings and lights



Future work:

- Replace parking lot, deteriorated sidewalks
- Remodel kitchen
- Replace blacktop play area

Note: Future work may be re-evaluated based on construction costs.

Student spotlight: Glen Crest grad Soren Loest, trombone player

There's a concept in music called the "pyramid of sound" – a philosophy that when each instrument finds the right pitch and volume, a concert band creates a balanced, robust performance.

At the top of this pyramid are soprano instruments - like flutes and piccolos – that nimbly dance through different melodies.

At the other end of the pyramid are the often-overlooked low brasses - the tubas, bassoons, trombones. They end up in the spotlight less often, yet they're essential to bringing the full ensemble sound to the audience.

That's why when you have a very good musician in the low brass section - like recent Glen Crest Middle School graduate Soren Loest – their impact reverberates.

"That's where having somebody like Soren is very nice," said Glen Crest band teacher Lev Garbar. "Soren plays very articulately. He plays strong. Anybody who plays around him can hear what they're supposed to be doing. That provides the foundation that we need for the rest of the band."

Loest doesn't just stand out at Glen Crest. This past spring, he participated in the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District 9 Junior Jazz Festival. Middle schools from across northern Illinois participate; students from 23 schools auditioned for the two honor jazz ensembles.

Soren was selected to play trombone for the top big band. "It means he's one of the best jazz trombone players in the area," Garbar said.

Soren first picked up a trombone in fifth grade.

"It's fun," Soren said. "It's a lower instrument but you still get a great sound if you play it right."

In school, his favorite subject is math, where formulas and calculations need to be precise. But in band, he loves being part of the jazz ensemble where he can use his broad musical knowledge to improvise within the larger structure.

"You're encouraged to play in a different style," he said. "You don't really think ahead of time. You just play and see how it sounds."

When auditioning for ILMEA, Soren faced a challenge that professional musicians rarely encounter but comes up often in middle school: braces. When your brass instrument needs to be in nearly direct contact with metal orthodontics, it can affect your sound.

Glen Crest band teacher Katie Berry has seen this discourage many kids through the years. So she was impressed to watch Soren work through the problem diligently, persistently until he was ready to audition for one of the best bands in the region.

"He's a great kid and I think he's going to do really well in the future," Berry said. "We're definitely going to miss him as he goes off to Glenbard South."



www.ccsd89.org
22W600 Butterfield Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 469-8900
CCSD 89 schools
Arbor View School
22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5505 www.ccsd89.org/arborview
Briar Glen School
1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL
(630) 545-3300 www.ccsd89.org/briarglen
Park View School
250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-1600 www.ccsd89.org/parkview
Westfield School
25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-2770 www.ccsd89.org/westfield
Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5220 www.ccsd89.org/glencrest

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Educational leader Doug Eccarius selected as superintendent of CCSD 89

A veteran educator with experience at both elementary and middle school levels was selected to be the superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 89. In April, Board of Education members unanimously approved Doug Eccarius as superintendent.

Eccarius had been the deputy superintendent for Indian Prairie School District 204, which serves Aurora, Bolingbrook, Naperville, and Plainfield. During his 26 years in education, he has also been a middle school math teacher, middle school assistant principal, elementary school principal, and assistant superintendent for human resources.

"I'm excited and honored to be selected as superintendent of District 89," Eccarius said. "I can't wait to get to know all of the students, staff, and families in the district."

Eccarius officially began his role with CCSD 89 on July 1, although he met with students and staff at all five CCSD 89 schools prior to the end of the 2022-23 school year.



Doug Eccarius
Superintendent

learner support.

Even while working as deputy superintendent, he always looked for opportunities to visit classrooms.

"I love watching teachers use their passion and their expertise to connect with kids. I love what we can be for students," he said. "I want District 89 to continue to be a place where all kids are cared for, they're safe, and they can take risks to grow and learn so they can be what they want to be in this world."

Experienced educator

Eccarius began his career in 1997, as a seventh-grade math and geography teacher. While teaching, he received five Indian Prairie Education Foundation "Most Influential Educator" awards.

He served as a team coordinator and participated on the district's advisory and math textbook adoption committees. He also coached football, wrestling, and track.

In 2003, he was selected to be the assistant principal and athletic director at Clarendon Hills Middle School.

After two years at Clarendon Hills, he was named principal of The Lane Elementary School in Hinsdale. In 2011, the school was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, an elite national designation given to schools that are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

In 2012, Eccarius was hired as assistant superintendent for human resources at District 181 in Burr Ridge, where he worked until Indian Prairie's superintendent asked him to return.

While at Indian Prairie, he oversaw the implementation of a guest teacher academy

and served on the executive board for the Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators.

Eccarius was interested in applying to be CCSD 89's superintendent because of the community's pride in education. He loves that residents have high expectations for students and ensure there are supports in place to help all learners.

"I was really excited about the size of District 89 because it gives me the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and board members," Eccarius said. "Building relationships is one of my favorite parts of working in education."

Lifelong learner

Eccarius earned a bachelor's degree in middle school education from Illinois State University, then a master's degree in educational leadership from North Central College. He has a superintendent endorsement from Aurora University. He has earned his superintendent, general administration, and professional educator licenses.

Eccarius lives in Plainfield with his wife, Jenny, who is a permanent substitute teacher in Plainfield. They have two adult children: Allison, a graduate student at Edinburgh University in Scotland; and Douglas Jr., a senior at Illinois State University.

"We're very supportive of education in our family," he said. "I love the field of education. I feel like it helped me be the person I am today."

Eccarius was chosen after a nationwide search. During the search, students, staff, and residents were able to share feedback on the qualities they most valued in a school leader. The board approved a three-year contract for Eccarius.

The previous CCSD 89 superintendent, Emily Tammaru, was selected as superintendent for District 30.



Get to know Doug Eccarius!

To see an introduction from superintendent Eccarius scan the above QR code or go to www.ccsd89.org/eccarius

Relationship builder

CCSD 89 Board Member Haydee Núñez said that during the interview process, Eccarius stood out for his many years of experience leading teams at both elementary and middle school levels.

"His clear strength was his ability to build good relationships with students, with parents, and with teachers," Núñez said. "We know that is something our community will value."

Eccarius spent six years as Indian Prairie's Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources before being promoted to deputy superintendent in April 2020. As deputy superintendent, he oversaw curriculum and instruction for all grade levels; innovation; research and assessment; professional learning; online learning; STEM integration; and English-language

Looking ahead: Make sure your student is ready for the 2023-24 school year!

The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, August 23! That's about one week later than previous years due to summer construction. See the 2023-24 calendar at www.ccsd89.org/2324calendar



School calendar

Are you getting a head start on school supply shopping? The school supply lists for all five schools and CCSD 89 preschool are available at www.ccsd89.org/supplies



School supply lists

Did you just move to the CCSD 89 community? Make sure your student is registered for the 2023-24 school year! Get started and see what documents you need at www.ccsd89.org/register



Get registered