

Dear Neighbor:

Test scores are going down, enrollment is declining, veteran principals are leaving, and taxes are continuing to rise. There's an uncomfortable truth that more people in our town need to know: **all is not well in Evanston's public schools.**

We are a diverse group of Evanstonians—parents, teachers, longtime residents, and proud D65 & ETHS alumni—who are deeply concerned about the state of our public schools.

We've created this newsletter, which aggregates data about D65 & D202 and summarizes reporting on schools from our local papers, to help more Evanstonians get a picture of what is happening.

This issue highlights what many see as an unusually high level of turnover among D65 Principals and Assistant Principals since 2018-19.

D65 Principals and Assistant Principals Leaving in Significant Numbers

There is evidence of what some see as an unusually high level of turnover among D65 Principals and Assistant Principals since 2018-19.

We initially became concerned after reading a [lengthy essay for the Evanston RoundTable written by the former Principal of Dewey Elementary, Donna Sokolowski](#), in which she explained her reasons for resigning—and warning of a forthcoming exodus of D65 staff. An *Evanston Now* story on July 6, 2022 ("[Another principal leaving District 65](#)"), made us aware of more departures.

We became more than concerned after putting together a list, which we believe to be comprehensive, of all those Principals and Assistant Principals who have left since 2018-19.

That's twelve departures in four school years. We haven't done any formal benchmarking, and we haven't talked to any of those who have left. And, naturally, a certain level of turnover is inevitable. Still, the fact that so many high-level administrators have chosen to leave probably isn't a positive indicator of organizational health.

If you know the story behind any of these departures, please let us know.



The news of the departure of Jerry Succes sparked a parent-led petition campaign, calling on the District to retain the popular Assistant Principal.

Michael Allen	Principal	Oakton Elementary
Jeffrey Brown	Principal	King Lab
Michelle Cooney	Principal	Lincoln Elementary
Katherine Ellison	Principal	Washington Elementary
Adrian Harries	Principal	Nichols Middle School
Luke Larmee	Assistant Principal	Lincoln Elementary
Diona Lewis	Assistant Principal	Haven Middle School
Jerald Michael	Principal	Willard Elementary
Kathleen Roberson	Principal	Haven Middle School
Donna Sokolowski	Principal	Dewey Elementary
Jerry Succes	Assistant Principal	Willard Elementary
Max Weinberg	Principal	Lincolnwood Elementary

Thank you to the many people who have already signed up online to receive this newsletter.

If you haven't yet signed up, please go to www.evanston-schools-update.org. And feel free to share this issue or the previous ones.

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