



Future Ready D36 Core Team Bios

Community Member Bios

Kirby Doonan

Kirby Doonan has lived in Winnetka for seven years. Ms. Doonan is a current parent of two students at Crow Island School, as well as a preschool student. She is a school social worker in Niles Township District 219, where she has worked with the alternative, special education program for the District. She has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Human Development from Boston College and a Masters of Arts in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago with a concentration in School Social Work. Ms. Doonan is an active volunteer as a board member of the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation and the Crow Island PTO.

John Griffin

John Griffin is a graduate of District 36 schools and moved back to Winnetka in 2004. Mr. Griffin is a parent of three current District 36 students (Washburne and Skokie schools) and one future student. He is a former investment manager who retired recently from his career at Guggenheim Partners. He is a graduate of Colgate University and University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Mr. Griffin served as a member of the District 36 enrollment balancing committee.

Stephanie Fox

Stephanie Fox has lived in Winnetka for ten years. She currently has children at Greeley and Skokie Schools. Her oldest son is a New Trier freshman who attended Greeley, Skokie and Washburne schools. Mrs. Fox is a Trustee of Cornell University where she is a member of the Academic Affairs, Buildings and Properties, and Finance committees. She has been involved in numerous local board and volunteer positions in our community.

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson has lived in Winnetka for 45 years. Mr. Johnson is a former parent of three students at Greeley, Skokie, and Washburne. He is a retired Investment Banker. Mr. Johnson is an active volunteer and was elected twice to both the New Trier High School

Board of Education and the Winnetka Village Council. He also served on the Board of Trustees of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District and the Winnetka Caucus Council.

Craig Kopkash

Craig Kopkash has lived in Winnetka since summer 2017. Mr. Kopkash is a current parent of two boys at Winnetka Public Nursery School before they move on to Hubbard Woods School. One of the reasons he and his wife, Dr. Katherine Kopkash, moved to Winnetka was for the school system. He is the Global Commercial Director for Team Sports at Wilson Sporting Goods. Mr. Kopkash also serves as a board member of the St. Jude Children's Hospital Four Stars of Chicago fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital. He has a BBA from University of Iowa in Marketing and an MBA from University of Illinois

Gabrielle (Brie) Root

Gabrielle (Brie) Root has lived in Winnetka for six years. Ms. Root is current parent of students at Hubbard Woods School and Carleton Washburne School. She is a broker with Baird and Warner Real Estate, and has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an MBA from University of Detroit Mercy. Ms. Root is active volunteer with several D36 PTOs, and a mentor with The Floured Apron.

Carolyn Yoch

Carolyn Yoch has lived in Winnetka for 26 years. Ms. Yoch is the parent of three children, all graduates of Greeley, Skokie and Washburne Schools. She graduated from Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She worked in acquisitions and corporate strategy for healthcare, consumer packaged goods and consulting firms. Ms. Yoch has volunteered extensively with the PTO, Chicago Youth Centers and Illinois Swimming.

Staff Bios

Steve Agouridis

Steve Agouridis has been a Grade 6 Math and Science teacher at The Skokie School since 1997.

Mary Jo Ferneding

Mary Jo Ferneding is currently in her 26th year as a music teacher at Greeley School in District 36. She has also taught at Crow Island School.

Byrd Rhyne

Byrd Rhyne is a Grade 4 teacher at Hubbard Woods School. She joined District 36 as a Kindergarten teacher in 2012.

Bob Sweene

Bob Sweene has been a Kinetic Wellness teacher at Crow Island School since 2000.

Kim Wendel

Kim Wendel is a Language Arts teacher for students in grades 7-8 at Carleton Washburne School, where she began in 1998.

Stacey Wellman

Stacey Wellman is a Speech and Language Pathologist at Greeley School and began in District 36 in 1996. She serves as the WEA President.

Administrator Bios**Beth Carmody**

Beth Carmody is Principal at Hubbard Woods School. She joined District 36 in 2016.

Brad Goldstein

Chief Financial Officer Brad Goldstein joined District 36 in 2017.

Dave Kanne

Dave Kanne is has been Principal at Carleton Washburne School since 2015.

Dr. Trisha Kocanda

Dr. Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent, joined District 36 in 2010, where she has also served as Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Julie Pfeffer

Julie Pfeffer joined District 36 in 1993. She is Principal of Crow Island School. Prior to that she served as Curriculum Director and was also a teacher at Hubbard Woods School.

Joshua Swanner

Joshua Swanner Interim Principal at Greeley School, joined District 36 in 2010. He was a Social Studies teacher at Washburne and also served as Assistant Principal at The Skokie School for two years.

Kelly Tess

Kelly Tess is Principal of The Skokie School. She joined the District in 2013, first serving as Assistant Principal at The Skokie School.

Adam Rappaport

Adam Rappaport is Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds and joined the District in 1996.

Tony Venetico

Tony Venetico joined the District in 2015 and has since served as Assistant Principal at Carleton Washburne School.

School Board Bio

Jennifer Pehlke

Jennifer Pehlke is District 36 parent and has served on the School Board since 2015.