



Leah Collister-Lazzari, Penny Kazmier, and Barry Altshuler visit Barrington High School.

## Introducing Penny Kazmier as Barrington 220 Board President

THE LONG-TIME SCHOOL VOLUNTEER NOW LEADS THE DISTRICT ALONG WITH TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS.

IN 2011, PENNY KAZMIER was voted the Daily Herald “Cook of the Year”, but she still knows the phone number to Rosati’s Pizza by heart. It came in handy many nights, while raising and juggling the schedules of her four children. Today, the South Barrington resident’s children are all grown, ages 26-32, but kids are still very much a part of her life—specifically the nearly 9,000 students enrolled in the Barrington 220 School District.

Kazmier joined the Barrington 220 Board of Education in 2005, after serving in various leadership positions on the Grove, Rose, BMS-Prairie, and Barrington High School PTOs, as well as helping to lead the Barrington 220 Educational Foundation. “Running for the Barrington 220 Board of Education seemed to be a natural progression for me,” Kazmier said. “I am passionate about our schools and I believe excellent schools are an essential part of our community.”

For the past 12 years she served as Board Vice-President, but at a special Board meeting on April

30, 2019, Kazmier’s fellow members selected her to be President. Kazmier replaces longtime Board President Brian Battle, who retired after serving 16 years. “Over the last 14 years on the Board, I have learned we live in a generous community that values and supports education,” Kazmier said. “Our community holds our schools to high standards and expects the educational product to be well-researched and relevant, and while we are open to change, it must be done for the right reasons.”

During her first year as Board President, there will be plenty of work to do. In the April 2, 2019 general election, the community narrowly voted down a \$185 million school district referendum question on the ballot. A successful referendum would have allowed the district to improve safety and security at all schools, make general maintenance repairs at all buildings, update classrooms, and update arts and athletic spaces at Barrington High School. “In the coming year, the Board will have to decide how to address the facility needs of the district,” Kazmier said. “That may mean putting

At a special Board of Education meeting on April 30, 2019 two new Board members were sworn into office. Barry Altshuler and Leah Collister-Lazzari will serve four-year terms. They replace longtime Board members Brian Battle and Joe Ruffolo, who both retired after many years of service.



Barry Altshuler has lived in the Barrington community for more than 30 years. He has five children, who all went through the Barrington 220 school system. He

is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (B.A. Chemistry) and Northwestern University Medical School. Altshuler has worked as a pediatrician in the area for more than 30 years.



Leah Collister-Lazzari has lived in the Barrington community for 17 years. She has three children. One is currently enrolled at BHS and two are BHS graduates. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (B.S. Marketing) and the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Collister-Lazzari now works as an attorney and real estate broker.

another referendum question on a future ballot.” The next opportunity to do so is the March 2020 presidential primary election.

In addition, the Board might consider a discussion about creating a new strategic plan, or vision for the district. The district’s current strategic plan was designed to guide Barrington 220 through the year 2020. “In recent years the Board has also placed a high priority on the social and emotional well-being of Barrington 220 students, and we’ll continue to focus our efforts in that area,” Kazmier said.

It will be a busy school year ahead, but Kazmier said the hard work and long hours are always well worth it. “What I appreciate most

about Barrington 220 is our sense of community,” Kazmier said. Indeed, Barrington is one of the few communities that still has a homecoming parade. Alumni often return to Barrington to share their talents, experiences, and raise their children. “The school district binds us all together and shapes this community,” Kazmier said. U

Samantha Ptashkin is Director of Communications for Barrington 220 schools.



Veronica Roth with Barrington High School Alumni Association President Chuck Thyfault.

ON MAY 10, 2019 New York Times bestselling author and Barrington 220 alumna Veronica Roth participated in a nationwide live webcast from Barrington Prairie Middle School. During the complimentary webcast, Roth spoke about her path to becoming a published author, the process of active brainstorming, and how to tap into the creativity within us all. The event was organized by HarperCollins and School Library Journal.

Veronica Roth is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the “Divergent” Series and the “Carve the Mark” series. The Divergent Series was developed into three major motion pictures. Roth graduated from Barrington High School and Northwestern University. She now lives in Chicago with her husband and dog and writes full-time.



Veronica Roth signs one of her books for a student.

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