

# School District 12 Update

March 22, 2023

*From the Desk of  
Dr. Mary Henderson*



## *Calendar Events and Links*

[2022-23 School Year Calendar](#)

[2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)

**Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

[Board Meeting Agendas](#)

**SMART day: Wednesday, March 22**

[District 12 website](#)

Dear D12 Families,

I am writing to announce that at its March Board of Education meeting, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Karen Petelle as the next principal of Spring Hills Elementary School, effective July 1, 2023.



Ms. Petelle has an established record as an instructional leader. Prior to joining D12 in 2021, she served as a literacy coach and reading specialist in Bloomingdale D13 for twenty years. She has presented at the local and state levels and has authored several articles, including one on vocabulary development and one on language acquisition.

Through the interview process, Ms. Petelle came across as a thoughtful leader whose decisions are grounded in the needs of our students. In particular, our staff panel highlighted her proven record of strong and decisive leadership while also having a strong pulse on the personal and professional needs of the staff. During her time at SHS, the teachers have appreciated her collaborative leadership, particularly when meeting to discuss the needs of students, both academically and socially.

Our student interview panel, fourth grade students recommended by our student leadership sponsors, made the announcement last evening. They shared their excitement for some of the ideas shared with them during the interview: Field trips, new and additional clubs, more structured games at recess, and increasing school spirit. They also noted that her favorite color is purple and her favorite food is pizza.

Ms. Petelle will join Mr. Girmscheid as the co-principal for the remainder of this school year as they work collaboratively on this transition.

I am grateful to the SHS parents who served on the parent panel, our staff who served on the staff panel, and, of course, our students who always provide a critical perspective.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

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**Roselle**