

News Release

McHenry Community High School District 156
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McHenry District 156 School Board Appoints New Member

McHENRY, IL (August 19, 2019) -- McHenry Community High School District 156 Board of Education members welcomed Amanda (Mandy) Lobbins to the school board Monday to fill a seat left vacant with the resignation of board member Tim Byers.

Lobbins, a District 156 parent and business manager for the Law Office of Denise M. Kuzniewski in McHenry, will serve on the board through the April 2021 consolidated election. Board members voted unanimously to approve the appointment after conducting an application and search process in July.

Lobbins said her interest in serving on the school board was sparked last year during the campaign for voter approval of a \$44 million bond referendum to fund building improvements. After the referendum passed, Lobbins volunteered to serve on the district's Core Planning Team to help design the new Center for Science, Technology and Industry and West Campus extension. "I just think that is going to take our district in a great direction for future generations," Lobbins said of the building improvements. "I'm super excited to be a part of it."

Board President Gary Kinshofer said Lobbins is an active member of the school community and is supportive of the strategic direction of the district moving forward.

“I think she’s a valuable asset and a great addition to our team,” Kinshofer said. “She’s vested in the community.”

Dawn Bremer, vice president of the school board, said she was impressed that Lobbins spent a lot of time learning about the school district.

“She did a lot of historical research of where the district had been and where the district is going,” Bremer said. “Between her knowledge and her previous experience, she seemed like a natural fit. I think she’s going to be fantastic.”

Lobbins said she’s passionate about unique learning opportunities District 156 offers to students to prepare them for the future. She specifically cites expanded Project Lead The Way coursework, the new INCubatoredu program, and vocational opportunities with local businesses as examples of innovative education for McHenry High School students.

“I think it’s very exciting that our district is offering all the career clusters for college-bound kids, and kids interested in going into the trades,” Lobbins said. “This is an exciting time to be a student in McHenry.”

Lobbins joins the board just as the building plan she supported swings into high gear. The first phase of summer construction work at both East Campus and West Campus is wrapping up as the new school year begins.

Construction of the planned Center for Science, Technology and Industry is expected to start this fall, and Phase II building improvements are planned for next summer.

Lobbins, who has a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of Iowa, has lived in McHenry for 20 years. Her son Gavin is a senior at West Campus where daughter Grace is a sophomore. Her son Garet is a 5th-grader at Duker School in McHenry.