

# MEET THE ADMINISTRATORS



**Dr. James Rydland**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Dr. Rydland began his career in 1975 as a special education teacher in North Thurston Public Schools in Lacey, Washington. He has served as an elementary and secondary teacher, middle school assistant principal, elementary principal, Director of Curriculum/Secondary Education and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

With his wife Jo, a retired teacher, he has raised two children Kelsey and Morgan. Dr. Rydland has been the Superintendent of District 129 since July of 2005.



**Stacy Behmer**  
*Technology Director*

Stacy will head the development and implementation of technology programs, with special emphasis in instructional technology. She also oversees computers, software, telecommunications, networking, and user access accounts such as e-mail and voicemail.

In the past, Stacy has been a fourth-grade teacher at Hill Elementary School, and served on the district technology committee. Prior to that, she was a technology teacher at Jefferson Middle School, and a university Instructional Technology teaching assistant and a fourth-grade teacher in Iowa.



**Mike Chapin**  
*Community Relations Director*

Mike is responsible for Community Relations, media relations, and press releases.

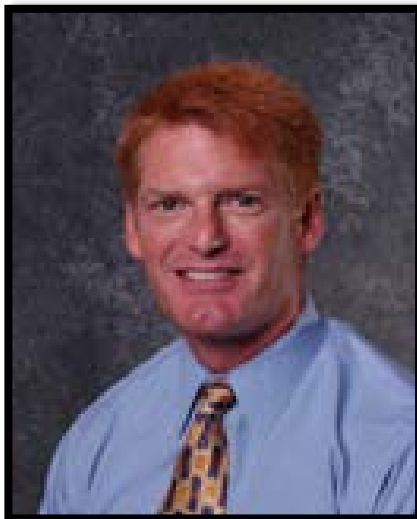
He has been with the district for 6 years. He is mentoring a District 129 student and is involved with the local Rotary Club. He also serves on the Aurora "Seize the future" public relations advisory committee and enjoys writing, photography and nature.



**Mark Engen**  
***Director of Transportation***

Mark oversees the transportation department. He coordinates transportation programs and services. He joined the District in 2005.

Mark is the proud parent of three West Aurora High School graduates.



**Dr. Ed Howerton**  
***Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources***

Ed oversees recruitment, hiring, benefits and other employment-related matters. Ed joined the district in 2008. Previously he served as principal of Oswego East High School and as an assistant principal in Elmwood Park at Elmwood Park High School and Elmwood Elementary School, and at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville. He began his career in education in 1993 as an English teacher at Waubensee Valley High School in Aurora. Prior to his career in education, Ed worked as an account executive in the printing industry.



**Cindi Hamilton**  
***Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent***

Cindi was appointed the secretary to the School Board in June 2008. As the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Cindi is responsible for assisting the Superintendent of Schools, Cabinet and School Board members.

Cindi has been married to Keith for 19 years and has two daughters that attend West High. Jessica is a senior and Heather is a sophomore.

She has been employed by the District for 12 years.



**Lynn Head**  
***Assistant Director of Transportation***

Lynn assists the director in the oversight of the department and she coordinates bus routing, field trips and sporting events. She also handles concerns from parents, students and teachers.

She has been employed by the District since 1995.



**LuAnne Kelsey**  
***Secondary Education Director***

LuAnne is responsible for the oversight and assistance with all 6-12 curriculum initiatives, and any grants tied to these grade levels. She is the Secondary parental contact, and is also the support for the teachers and principals.

LuAnne has been married for over 26 years with 2 children; Brandon and Megan. Both children attended West Aurora schools K-12 (Hill-Washington-West High).

She has been employed by the District for over 25 years.



**Pete Kerl**  
***Assistant Superintendent for Operations & School Safety***

Pete is responsible for grounds, maintenance, construction, emergency procedures and transportation custodial services. Pete also oversees the IT department. Prior to joining the district in 2005, Pete served as Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services with North Thurston Public Schools in Lacey, WA. He also held positions as Director of Elementary Education & Curriculum, principal and teacher.

He is married with three grown daughters and four grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and reading.



**Cynthia Latimer**  
***Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning***

Cynthia is responsible for the division of Teaching and Learning which includes Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education, Gifted and Talented Education, English Language Learner Programs (Bilingual and ESL), Assessment, Professional Development, and Homeless.

She has been with the district for 25 years. Prior roles include special education teacher, elementary school principal, and assistant superintendent for student services. She is a member and officer of the Aurora Actionaires, and enjoys shopping, entertaining and traveling.



**Dr. Crysta Morrissey**  
***Special Education Director***

Crysta oversees the special education department for the school district. She is responsible for 504 Accommodations ISBE reports, the special education budget, and parental concerns. Crysta joined the District in 2000. Prior roles include Principal at Hope D. Wall for four years, and Assistant Director of Special Education for one year before becoming the Director.



**Jeff Schiller**  
***Operations Director***

Jeff is responsible for district wide maintenance, grounds and custodial services. Jeff began his career in the District in 1988 after graduating from West Aurora High School. Prior roles include night custodian, Head custodian and Regional Custodial Supervisor. He is a member of the ISSA.



**Mark Siekierski**  
*Assistant Director of Special Education*

Mark assists the director in the oversight of the department, addresses concerns and manages the special education bilingual evaluations. He is entering his 17<sup>th</sup> year in the District, having started as a school social worker.

Mark enjoys spending time with his wife Susan, and two kids Hope and Matthew. He enjoys going to Chicago Bears games and enjoys officiating high school basketball, which he's done for 20 years.



**Erin Slater**  
*Elementary Education Director*

Erin will oversee K-5 Teaching and Learning. She is the Elementary Parental contact. She will additionally be responsible for K-12 Language Arts, Social Studies, PE/Driver's Education and PBIS. She oversees the Class Size Reduction Grants and will assist with the Title I and Reading First grants.

Erin has been with the District for 18 years as a teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa and M.S. in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University.



**Christi Tyler**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Christi oversees all fiscal matters for the school district, including financial monitoring and reporting, budget preparation, and coordinates the bidding process. She also serves as the fiscal agent for Hope D. Wall and as the IMRF agent.

Christi joined the district in 2004 and has served as a middle school teacher, coach, and math department chair. She received her B.S. in Education from St. Xavier University and her M.S. in School Business Management from Northern Illinois University. Christi is a member of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.



**Barbara Vlasvich**

***Literacy, Assessment & Professional Development  
Director***

Barb will oversee the areas of literacy, assessment and professional development in the District. Barb began her career in the District in 1977.

Barb's prior roles include classroom teacher for 20 years, elementary Assistant Principal, Elementary Principal, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education for four years, and Director of the Partnership Program. Barb earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Aurora University and Masters of Science degree in Special Education from Northern Illinois University. She is currently in the Doctoral Studies Program in Leadership in Education at Aurora University.

Barb enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons. She also spends time working in her gardens, bike riding, and traveling