



In July, Kevin Koskos, center, began work as Dakota High School principal. He is pictured with Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ron Roberts and Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education President Beth Pyden.  
Photo provided by Diane Blain

## Dakota welcomes new principal

By: [Alex Szwarc](#) | [Macomb Township Chronicle](#) | Published July 29, 2019

MACOMB TOWNSHIP — July 1 marked a new chapter in Kevin Koskos' education career.

That's when he began his role as Dakota High School principal, replacing Paul Sibley — who was hired as the Chippewa Valley Schools executive director of secondary education.

Koskos, 45, was named Dakota's next principal at the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education's May 20 meeting.

He was one of 30 to apply for the job.

Koskos, of Macomb Township, has spent most of his career working at Dakota High School, previously serving as principal of the ninth grade center for five years. For eight years, he worked as an assistant principal at the main high school, responsible for the school's emergency preparedness planning, advanced placement program, teacher evaluation development and data director assessments.

"I was so appreciative of the education and experience I got at Chippewa Valley High School when I was a student there that I knew I wanted to be an educator well before I graduated high school," Koskos said. "When I graduated, I joked, 'Wouldn't it be something to come back and teach at the new school?'"

Koskos grew up in Chippewa Valley Schools, attending Miami Elementary School, Wyandot Middle School and Chippewa Valley High School.

"He's very knowledgeable about the school and that's very important," Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ron Roberts said. "I think Dakota is really on the track of improvement. He's the perfect candidate to do that."

Koskos was hired at Dakota as a teacher in 1997, teaching history, government and student leadership. He served as the school's activities director from 1999-2006, where he worked with staff advisors of more than 25 school clubs.

He also served as the school's athletic coordinator in 1999 and later served as the head varsity baseball coach from 2003-2006.

Koskos' belief is that the success of a high school can be measured by test scores, but of equal importance is students having a great experience in their four years.

What he looks forward to is working with staff, kids and community to continue to offer the very best opportunities for students in academics, athletics and activities.

"I really feel that our school's potential is limitless, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead us into the future as principal," he said.

Koskos graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. He also attended Saginaw Valley State University, where he received his master's degree in educational leadership.

Roberts said Koskos is respected by staff and community, and is very detail- and plan-oriented.

"He's very analytical, all at the same time having a great personality," Roberts said. "People will be happy to follow his leadership."

Roberts believes Koskos' immediate impact as principal will be to maintain the quality in place at Dakota.

"That's certainly something he can do since he understands the building," Roberts said. "I think any principal wants to put their own stamp on a building, and he'll be great at that."

When asked how Koskos can improve as a leader, Roberts said since he's going from supervising 750-800 students and a small staff to 2,200 students, he'll have to learn what he can accomplish individually and what he'll need support with.

What Koskos noticed from Sibley's job as principal is his commitment to building a positive culture, rooted in support of one another.

"Administration supporting teachers and teachers supporting students," Koskos said. "People relationships at the forefront of everything is important."

Koskos is married with three children. He said around 2,950 students are enrolled at Dakota, Michigan's largest high school, for the 2019-20 school year.