

# New Dakota principal hired, other changes in Chippewa Valley Schools

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group
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Current Dakota High School Principal Paul Sibley will begin serving as the executive director of secondary education for Chippewa Valley Schools on July 1.

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Current Ojibwa Elementary School Principal Marina Licari will begin serving as the executive director of elementary education for Chippewa Valley Schools on July 1.

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Kevin Koskos was recently promoted within the Chippewa Valley Schools district from Dakota Ninth Grade Center principal to Dakota High School principal. He will replace Paul Sibley, who was recently promoted to executive director of secondary education for Chippewa Valley Schools.

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Students throughout the Chippewa Valley Schools district are getting ready for promotions as they advance from one grade to another in June. Several of their administrators are preparing to make a promotional leap this summer as well, leading to a changing of the guard at Dakota High School.

Ed Skiba, the district's current assistant superintendent of educational services, will retire June 30. The Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education appointed Don Brosky to the position of assistant superintendent of educational services on April 15.

Brosky began working in the district in 2001 when he became principal of Ottawa Elementary School in Clinton Township. He served as principal of Cheyenne Elementary School in Macomb Township for 10 years before becoming the executive director of elementary education for the district in 2014.

On May 6, the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education approved Marina Licari as the next executive director of elementary education and Paul Sibley as the next executive director of secondary education for the educational services department. Both will officially begin their new positions on July 1, taking over duties previously held by Brosky and Skiba.

Sibley began his career in Chippewa Valley Schools in 2002 as a teacher at Dakota High School in Macomb Township, and served as teacher in charge before becoming the school's assistant principal in 2006. He became Dakota High School principal in 2012.

Dakota Ninth Grade Center and Dakota High School combined has about 3,000 students, and is the largest public high school in the state. On May 20, the Chippewa Valley Board of Education selected Kevin Koskos as Dakota High School's new principal. Koskos is currently the principal of Dakota's Ninth Grade Center. He will begin the new position on July 1.

"The transition is informally underway already," Koskos said. "I've been coming from next door at the Ninth Grade building and assisting in the transition."

Koskos told the Class of 2022 that he will be moving up with them during a ceremony that marks the transition of ninth graders to the high school building.

Koskos began his career in Chippewa Valley Schools in 1997, as a Dakota teacher, before taking on the dual role of teacher and student activities director at the school in 1999. He served as an assistant principal at Dakota High School in 2006, but became the Dakota Ninth Grade Center principal in 2014.

Licari began her career in Chippewa Valley Schools at Macomb Township's Iroquois Middle School in 2000 as a teacher. In 2009 she became a teacher leader at Iroquois and was then promoted to assistant principal at Seneca Middle School in Macomb Township. In 2015, Licari became principal of Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb Township.

Chippewa Valley Schools spokesperson Diane Blain said the district plans to have a few vacant principal positions filled by July 1.

"The Ojibwa and Seneca principal candidates are still going through the interview process," Blain said. "Next a recommendation will be made to the board of education to hire the finalists."

The Seneca Middle School position became vacant in December 2018, when Todd Distelrath became principal of Chippewa Valley High School in Clinton Township. Nicole Faehner served as the interim principal of Seneca, but was approved by the Chippewa Valley Board of Education as the new director of state and federal programs and outreach on April 15. She will replace Scott Pitts, who elected to retire from the district after 40 years.

Faehner has held several positions in the district, including teacher at Dakota, teacher in charge and administrative intern at Chippewa Valley High School, assistant principal at Dakota and assistant

principal at Seneca Middle School. She has also been a substitute principal at Cherokee and Huron elementary schools in Clinton Township.