

WILLOW SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL

DISTRICT 108 • COOK COUNTY

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Dear Willow Families:

It is with great pleasure that the Willow Springs School District Board of Education announces that Miss Alexandra Oreluk has been named the next Principal of Willow Springs School! She starts here at Willow Springs School on July 1.

Miss Oreluk has been recognized at her 2 assistant principal positions as “a school leader who builds a positive school climate and culture that supports the educational growth and social/emotional well-being of the students. She is a teacher at heart and knows that each student learns differently. She develops positive relationships with students, parents, and teachers. She communicates well and is a driven change agent.”

Miss Oreluk comes to us after being an assistant principal at John Mills School (a K-6 building) in Elmwood Park. Prior to that she was an assistant principal at Hickory Creek Middle School in Frankfort. She has been a special education teacher and has an endorsement in English Language Learning. She'll be bringing her knowledge and K-8 experiences with her to serve our students and the community.

The staff committee that conducted the search found Miss Oreluk to be easy to talk with and extremely knowledgeable across the curriculum. And, we didn't make it an easy process! Final candidates answered essay questions and participated in 3 interviews. It was clear to us that Miss Oreluk is going to be a terrific principal here at Willow Springs School. We can't wait for you to meet her in the coming weeks, and I know she's excited to meet you as well.

Miss Oreluk takes over from Mrs. Smuda who is retiring in June. Mrs. Smuda has been principal for the past 6 years, and we're grateful for her 20 years of total service here at Willow! She has made a difference in so many children's lives here at Willow. Her energy and care for students has served her well throughout her career.

It's a time for transitions here at Willow. It's with gratitude to the many wonderful members of our school community, that I announce my retirement this coming June as well. I've had the pleasure of working with the students and families of our school for the past 34 years. I can hardly believe we've been part of each other's lives for 34 years of my 38 year professional career – and the last 14 of those as superintendent. I am grateful for your sharing and entrusting your children to me and the rest of the school team. You have all made me a better educator. While I don't know exactly what adventure will come next for me, I know I will continue to be a fierce advocate of “Children First” – which has always been my guiding



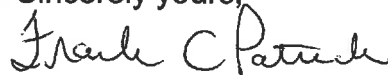
WILLOW SPRINGS SCHOOL, WHERE A LOVE OF LEARNING GROWS.

philosophy. I am looking forward to having an opportunity to spend some quality time with my family and preparing my kids for college during their senior year of high school next year.

Both Lori and I will work to ensure a smooth transition in the coming months. We're both excited to help prepare Miss Oreluk for her new role. I'm recommending to the Board that they appoint an interim superintendent and conduct a search for a permanent superintendent to start in 2022. I will do everything in my power to insure a smooth transition to the interim superintendent.

I'm excited for the future of our students – your children. Lori and I are proud of the work your children do every day. We're proud of the academic growth that they make. We've had the privilege of working with one of the finest staff team of teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff of any school. The Willow Staff works hard every day for your children. I know that the students' successes and the teachers' dedication will continue well into the future. I am confident that Alexandra Oreluk will be a terrific principal and leader for our students and staff. I know moving forward Willow Springs School is a place where the love of learning grows!

Sincerely yours,



Frank C. Patrick

