



SPRING 2024



## Dr. Tatiana Bonuma Hired as Superintendent

**Dr. Tatiana Bonuma was hired by the Board of Education as the next superintendent of Maine Township High School District 207 following a national search.**

“Dr. Bonuma brings skills and a perspective to the superintendent role that we think makes her ideally suited to make key decisions about the future of District 207,” says

Board of Education President Carla Owen. “She is an experienced and well-rounded educator and administrator who has excelled throughout her career in various leadership roles. She understands the important role that stakeholder engagement and relationship building have in supporting and expanding the innovative and important work that the district has done, and will continue to do, in service to all of our students. We look forward

to what’s next for the district as Dr. Bonuma leads the excellent administrative team, talented teachers and dedicated staff of District 207.”

Dr. Bonuma will start her role on July 1, 2024 after current Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace retires.

“I am honored and excited to join the Maine Township High School

District 207 administrative team,” Dr. Bonuma says. “As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my deep commitment to our students, staff, parents, and the entire community. Together, let us continue to elevate our district, empower our students, and create a safe, inclusive learning environment. I look forward to working closely with all District 207 stakeholders as we shape the future of our schools.”

Dr. Bonuma currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent in Leyden School District 212. She has served as a Principal, Associate Principal, Dean of Students, ELL/Bilingual Divisional Director, ELL/Bilingual teacher and Spanish teacher during her career.

Dr. Bonuma earned her bachelor of arts degree from University of Dubuque with a triple major in Marketing, International Studies and Spanish. She earned her masters in Secondary Education with a Type 09 certificate in Spanish, Business and Social Studies from Roosevelt University. She earned her Ed.D. Educational Administration degree with a Superintendent Endorsement from Aurora University. ■

***“Together, let us continue to elevate our district, empower our students, and create a safe, inclusive learning environment.”***

# Questions & Answers with New Superintendent Dr. Tatiana Bonuma

## Why did you go into the field of education?

I initially went into education because of an experience I had in high school. I had a group of teachers that knew exactly how to channel my energy and passion for learning. I was entrusted to support my peers who struggled in math and science courses. I learned through this experience how much I enjoyed helping others reach their goals and gain confidence. Once in education, I learned that the school community is a very special place. Being a part of it meant that I would, over time, have the ability to have an impact on students way beyond their high school years. That is what keeps me in education.

## What is your motivation for becoming a superintendent?

Superintendents can shape the lives of students and the future of education. I have seen first hand the impact leadership has on the success of a school community. The desire to make a positive impact motivated me to become a superintendent.

## You have had some opportunities to meet students, parents, staff and others in the District 207 community. What have you learned already?

I have learned so much about the District 207 community in the last few months! The sense of pride in every aspect of the district is palpable. There is a rare combination of tradition that meets innovation that sets District 207 apart. However, the most important thing I have learned so far is that the District 207 school community is composed of amazing people. They are dedicated, forward thinking, and caring.

## What are you looking forward to most in joining District 207?

Being able to immerse myself in the day-to-day life of the school community by being present at each school in order to get to know the students and staff and learn more about the amazing things that are taking place.



*Dr. Bonuma posed with a group of students from Maine West who provided her with a tour of the school including many of the new spaces since construction.*

*During her visit to Maine East, Dr. Bonuma spoke with student leaders from the school.*



*As part of her visit to Frost Academy, Dr. Bonuma spent time talking with staff members. She visited with staff at each school as part of her initial visits.*



*Dr. Bonuma spent time speaking with a Maine South student when she visited the preschool classroom during her tour of the school.*

## What will be your focus during your first year as the superintendent?

I will focus on listening and learning from everyone and from each interaction. Observing the culture and understanding more fully what the school district values will be an important piece of the puzzle for me.

## What can the District 207 community expect from you?

I will be present, engaged, and focused on elevating our district, empowering our students, and creating a safe, inclusive learning environment.

## What are your core beliefs about education?

Education is a lifelong journey that shapes our character, stimulates our minds and empowers us to contribute to society. As educators, we have the opportunity to magnify these experiences for our students through exploration and access. The goal is to support them in their journey to realize their potential. Our students are the future citizens of our community, and their growth will significantly contribute to social and economic development.

## What is your favorite story from when you were in high school?

I was part of student council my junior year and our class was charged with raising funds for the senior prom. We organized a talent show dinner that was amazing. The theme was music through the decades and the menu was Mediterranean inspired. The event was a great success but the fondest memories stem from all of the work that we did leading up to it. We had a ton of autonomy and support from school. Looking back, we all learned so much from this fun experience.

## What is your favorite story from your days in the classroom?

So many amazing memories ranging from the classroom interactions with students, co-sponsoring the freshman class and all of the homecoming festivities that came with that, helping new families acclimate to a new school, and becoming part of the community. ■



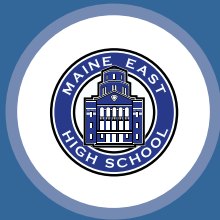
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## Several Honored by State Board of Education

A total of nine individuals and two teams from District 207 were honored as part of the Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel program and Teacher of the Year program this year. The program aims to recognize the best in the education profession in Illinois.

There are three categories of recognition with each of the programs including awards of excellence, awards of meritorious service and special recognition.

Maine West psychologist Dr. Yari Diaz (student support personnel) earned an award of excellence.

Maine South theater technical director Patrick Sanchez (educational service personnel) earned an award of excellence.

Maine South teacher Beth Ann Ball earned a meritorious service award in the teacher program. Maine South teacher Natalie Hohman and Maine West teacher Deanna Kuzmanic each earned awards of meritorious service in the Early Career Educator category that recognizes teachers who have less than five years experience.

Maine East Assistant Principal Mike Bender (administrator category), Maine West Assistant Principal Brian Packowitz (administrator category) and Maine East administrative assistant Jan Tedeschi (educational service personnel) each earned awards of meritorious service. The Hawk PRIDE team at Maine South earned an award of meritorious service in the team category.

Community volunteer and Board Member Dr. Teri Collins (community volunteer category) was awarded special recognition. The Maine East Link Crew team earned an award of special recognition in the team category. ■



**Dr. Yari Diaz**



**Patrick Sanchez**