

# Buckner (Buck) Creel

*by Becky McFall*

*June 3, 2021*

What do you say about a guy who knows a lot about everything and even more about certain things? You say, I'm so lucky to have him in my life and we are so fortunate that he has given 15 years of his time to the Lincoln Public Schools.

Buck is an avid reader and learner and can hold court on any topic. As a model of life-long learning, working in a school district has been a perfect fit for Buck. Over the years he has learned about all aspects of the school district, not just the financial side, and this is what makes him special. He understands that his role is not about money; it's about how we best allocate our resources in order to achieve our goals and provide students with the best possible educational experiences. Buck has been instrumental in making this possible.

Coming to the District in the role of Administrator for Business and Finance was a career change for Buck and in his time in the position he has become a highly regarded member of the MA Business Officials offering his expertise and mentorship to new business officials about their role in the school district and how to approach the work at hand. He is one of a small percentage of people who have achieved International School Business Official certification.

His professional life in the Army and at MIT Lincoln Labs prior to working in the district took Buck down many paths. He has filled too many different roles to list but, his skills as an engineer and construction project manager have been incredibly valuable to the district and the town over the last 12 years as we have planned for and re-constructed every school in the district. We are so fortunate that Buck will continue to help manage the Lincoln School project as we complete construction next year.

I believe that over the course of my nine years in the district, I have spent more time with Buck than anyone else. We've been together for a gazillion meetings, late nights and weekends in the office, holidays... Buck and I have worked closely together for nine years and I am grateful to him for his dedication, commitment, and loyalty. I have appreciated his support, companionship, and at times, being the company that misery loves. He has served as a sounding board, provided me with perspective on the Town and, he is the keeper of the history of the district.

Buck has one skill that I am particularly envious of; he is a story teller. He has a story to illustrate any point or provide a moral or to get you to think about something differently. I might be sharing a situation that I need help thinking through and Buck will listen and then say, "Can I tell you a story?" I of course would say, yes. Now most of the stories that I remember, I can't repeat in this venue. But they usually include an Army Officer with various accents representing the region of the country or world they were in and an action or saying that they used to convey their message. Anyone who knows Buck probably has several Buckisms running through their head right now. But, they are Buckisms and I could never do them justice.

Buck has been so much more than a Business Official or even a colleague to so many of us. It would take hours to appropriately acknowledge all of Buck's contributions. He has imparted a great deal of wisdom on all of us along the path of his 15 year journey in the district.

Buck, for many years, you have cared for the well-being of the district and you have shown great care for the outcomes of our schools. And, you have showed great care for me personally.

Many times over the years, you have called me or come into my office to say, "This is your Ranger Buddy talking, have you eaten dinner or, you need to take a break or, it's time to go home..."

So Buck, this is your Ranger Buddy thanking you for the millions of hours and the thought and care you have poured into your work for so long. You have made an incredible positive impact on our schools and the town. As your Ranger Buddy, I'm telling you that you have earned a retirement filled with opportunities for new learning, time with your family and friends, and the myriad of adventures that I am certain lie ahead. I wish you all the best.

# Stephen (Steve) Cullen

*By Sharon Hobbs*

*June 3, 2021*

It seems fitting that Steve Cullen's 27 year Lincoln School career is bookended by time in a classroom with just one group of students. When Steve arrived in Lincoln, after teaching for eight years in Maryland, he taught Fifth grade. Eventually an opening appeared in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and Steve made the jump up the grade levels, ending in 8<sup>th</sup> grade where he has stayed ever since. In this most unusual pandemic school year, Steve went back to one classroom with one small group of students, all the while coaching his colleagues in the teaching of a curriculum that was both familiar to him and new to him as the standards had changed.

In his work, Steve is always interested in engaging students in their study of history in a way that helps them to understand the complexity of how things unfolded, and the kinds of decisions people made that shaped how our country operates today. He has done many enactments, shown many movies, and taken many courses around the country in service of his students' learning.

Along the way, Steve has also learned about the pieces of our history that are missing, how to amplify marginalized voices, and what needed to be let go of because it was so painful to students and families in his midst. Always humble in conversations where learning was happening, Steve would take new information, reflect, and immediately change his practice to incorporate the new. This meant inventing and reinventing how and what he taught many times in his Lincoln years. Even in this, his final year of being in a classroom, he took the new standards and made them his own – using technology (a steep learning curve) to invite town officials and former students to come and meet his students and help them understand how our government works.

Steve has enthusiastically greeted each new teacher who has joined the Lincoln School faculty, usually trying to recruit them to join in the 6 a.m. basketball game, serving meals at Cor Unum, or any other gathering he can find. When Civic Engagement was deemed important eight years ago, Steve invited Sarah Canon Holden, the town moderator, and Susan Brooks, the town clerk, to come and work with a group of students to shepherd a warrant article to town meeting. Most years since, Steve has loaned his classroom at lunches and other times of the day so that 8<sup>th</sup> graders could experience town government from the ground up.

In addition to hosting the G8 group, Steve has also been the unofficial community service organizer for the town. Typically, there is a list on the chalkboard in his classroom of opportunities for students to serve. This is a core piece of who Steve is and how he greets the world. His service is to students he coaches on and off the field; as the organizer of our mentoring program (which had over 80 participants prior to the pandemic); teacher of the Youth in Philanthropy program; as the trip coordinator of the Washington, DC trip for many years; as the leader of the Outdoor Club, where he took students on overnights and also snow shoeing on the trails of Lincoln; and to the school as he taught whatever grade Social Studies needed an extra person in a given year.

If you are at any event or on a trip with Steve, there will be a moment where one or more of his three children and their adventures or his wife Adrienne's accomplishments at her work come up. It is always clear, from how he speaks about them, that his family is Steve's most precious and best accomplishment. He always speaks with pride and great love for and about them. As Steve takes the step forward into retirement, one thing is sure, he will spend much time with his family and in service to others as he has many new adventures. We wish you all the best Steve.



## Loretta D'Alessandro

*by Erich Ledebuhr*

Loretta D'Alessandro has been working at Hanscom Middle School since 1991. I've commented over the last few years how my longevity at HMS makes it more difficult each year to write a tribute for our retirees. This is my 25th year in this profession and my 12th at HMS. Over the last few years I find myself paying tribute to a really excellent generation of teachers. This year is no exception as we pay tribute to Loretta D'Alessandro who is getting ready to retire after 30 years of service to the Hanscom community.

Loretta was one of the first people I met from Hanscom Middle School as she was part of my initial interview committee. Loretta was also on the team that came to my site visit at Annie Sullivan Middle School.

Loretta was also there to greet me on my first day of school, July 1, 2009, which just happened to coincide with the first day of our first Title 1 summer camp. There was also another first for me that day as Loretta called me down to one of the classrooms as a squirrel was running around the room. At that point, I was like what did I get myself into....

Loretta was also our school's first transition specialist. In this role she is the first point of contact for all of our new families as they PCS to Hanscom Air Force Base. She is the first to assess them and the first to pass along information to you. She also instituted the first new parent meetings in September and January for new parents to help them learn about our culture and all of the wonderful opportunities at HMS. She has been a wonderful ambassador for our school and I've heard from parents many times saying - Ms. Loretta said.....

I can think of no one better to have been the ambassador for our school. Loretta lives and breathes HMS - she is the heart and soul. She is a firm believer in the experiences that kids have at school is one of the things that they remember the most and she wants to make sure that all students have access to those experiences.

She puts her money where her mouth is, she is always present at everything from concerts to dances and PTO events. She knows her presence helps for those experiences to take place. I think it is safe to say that Loretta loves Hanscom Middle School and it is like a second home to her. In fact as an ambassador of our school she has been the perfect hostess at this home just as she was when hosting parties for the school at her house. Always welcoming everyone into her home. Our next ambassador to the school is going to have some big shoes to fill.



Loretta is also one of the first people I go to when I need something. She is always calm and reassuring as she says, Erich , don't worry we've got this, it's what we do. We are really good at what we do. We have good teachers, we have good students and good families. We are a great place for kids and families. Truer words have never been spoken.

I never hesitate asking Loretta to fill in and take over as the caretaker of HMS in my absence because I know she will do so with all the utmost care and determination.

Now for a little humor, I've used the word first a lot in this tribute. That has been on purpose. A number of years ago someone in the office commented that they were not sure if they ever saw Loretta wear the same outfit and certainly not the same pair of shoes - ever. Made an impression on me. I'm not sure I've seen that first ever! We've had a number of recent retirees come back to help us out like Daphne and Janice but as another first Loretta has been the first person getting ready to retire that has already asked me to consider making a position for her next year!

Loretta, it has been a true pleasure working with you and on behalf of Hanscom Middle School, thank you for the lives you have touched, changed and supported. Thank you for your years of service to the Lincoln Public Schools and Hanscom Middle School. Congratulations and we wish you a healthy happy retirement!

# Laura English

*by Sarah Collmer*

*June 3, 2021*

Laura English's career has spanned 3 decades - that's right, 36 years - 3 continents including North America, South America, and Europe; and 3 age spans K-4, 5-8 and higher ed. In her spare time, Laura wrote 5 textbooks! The hallmarks of her work are deep content knowledge across the K-8 and across all content areas, skillful instructional practice, close collaboration with colleagues and families, and knowledge of her students as learners and individuals. She integrates these dimensions of teaching and learning into an experience that makes the invisible visible, helps newcomers feel welcome, and opens doors for English Language Learners.

I want to start by sharing a personal story - I promise, it's also about Laura! In the spring of 2015, I came to the Lincoln School as a finalist for the K-4 Principal job at the Lincoln School. I had been a little bit late for my initial interview having underestimated the traffic on route 27 and I did not want to be late for my finalist day. So, there I was, parked in the Smith lot before 7:00 am... reviewing my notes and getting ready for the day. Becky Eston was the first to arrive and she came right up to my car, greeted me and asked if I wanted to go in with her. Foolishly I declined, but at the time I thought, "I'd better follow the instructions and wait until closer to the first meeting at 7:50." The whole day was a test and I didn't want to blow it before it even started! More and more staff arrived and I watched them go into the kindergarten door - one of the several unmarked landmarks at the school and on campus which are tricky to locate until you've "been there and done that". When it was time for me to go in, I walked up the sidewalk along the playground and reached for the door which was locked. I started back toward the parking lot plotting my next move when Laura approached me with the friendliest greeting and I recognized her immediately - Laura and I had worked together in Wellesley, she as the EL director and me as a music teacher! She opened the door for me and it feels fitting to celebrate Laura as an educator and colleague who knows how to navigate unmarked pathways.

On a daily basis, Laura opens doors for the English Learner students, students who may speak, think or understand a language that is not English. Learning a new language is an incredibly complex process - it takes 1-3 years to gain basic interpersonal communication skills, 5 or more years to gain cognitive academic language proficiency skills. These are known as "BICS and CALPS". There are 6 levels of WiDA - which stands for World-class instructional Design and Assessment; a consortium which provides standards and assessments in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Laura has also presented a variety of professional development sessions at MATSOL (the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages); the EDCO collaborative; TESOL Teaching English to Speakers of other languages and even right here for the Lincoln School K-4 faculty. Through all of this acronym soup, Laura makes sense of what students know and can do and makes the thinking and learning visible with colorful charts, graphs, poems, visuals and diagrams. When called upon for consultation, Laura provides a comprehensive picture of strengths, goals and details that contribute to challenges a student is facing; and then she recommends a menu of action steps and strategies to support the student. This is just a portion of the "what" that Laura does in her work.

The more important aspect of Laura's work is the how - how she shows up for the students, how she reaches out to families, how she enlists colleagues to understand and support English Learners, and how she advocates passionately for her students. If you ask her students--- and I did --- they will tell you that Mrs. English is caring, helpful, fun, nice, sweet, creative, amazing, loving, and kind. One of her students told me "Mrs. English is faithful." When I asked her to say more, she said, "When I would give up, Mrs. English would say, 'You can do it! Keep going!'" Another student said, "I feel more comfortable with Mrs. English. She is always happy and smiling. She'll always be my favorite English teacher. I love her." Finally, her students understand that she has helped them learn English; and helped them learn.

These relationships and connections between a teacher and a student are the foundation for the conditions in which a student can thrive - one in which they believe in themselves, where they are willing to take risks, and work through challenges to become bilingual or even trilingual! There is a sketchnote that says "Being Bilingual is my superpower!" Bilingualism opens doors to other cultures, job opportunities, focus and problem solving skills, and unique ways of seeing and understanding the world. Laura has spent her career opening the doors through which her students transform into multi-lingual superheroes!

In the fall, when Laura's actual retirement date arrives, she will open the door to have time to spend with her family - her husband and son, her sister and her mother, and enjoy the world with the knowledge that she has changed the lives of newcomers - like me when I came to the Lincoln School, and to so many English Language Learners who have come from all around the world - Eritrea, Slovakia, Lithuania, Korea, Guatemala, Nigeria, Sudan, Dominican Republic and more. Muchas gracias, kamsahamnida, arigato, danke schön, merci, paldies, Ďakujem... thank you, Laura!

## Judith (Judy) Kelly

by Rob Ford

June 3, 2021

Judy Kelly and I joined the Lincoln Public Schools at about the same time in 2013. As long as I have known the Hanscom school libraries, I have known Judy as the welcoming face of the library program. If you have ever been to the Hanscom library then you probably know Judy in the same way, because that's what she does - she makes every student and staff member who walks through the library doors feel welcomed and valued, and the most important thing in the world in that moment.

Judy, it should come as no surprise, is a lover of books. And some of her favorite books from our library shelves serve as wonderful reminders of how much she has given to our schools and to our Hanscom community.

Whenever we look at *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley we will think of the story's underlying theme about the power of kindness and caring, and how Judy has created a welcoming library through her kind words and actions and her caring for everyone who walks through the doors.

*The Forget-Me-Not Summer* by Leila Howland with its themes of banding together to become your best selves, will remind us how Judy formed tremendously supportive partnerships with our librarians, Nancy and Tracy, creating an unstoppable Hanscom library team.

When we see Susan Beth Pfeffer's *Life as We Knew It* on the shelf and think of the hopeful struggle of Miranda and her family in a post-apocalyptic world, we will, of course, be reminded of the epic journey from our old school buildings to our new library, and Judy's ceaseless persistence to keep the library program alive and well, and putting books into the hands of kids through four moves, two major weedings, two temporary libraries one massive collection merge, and a pandemic.

And, over in the picture book section, when we spot Roch Carrier's *The Hockey Sweater* and recall Carrier and his friend's passion for hockey, we'll think about Judy's passion for literature, and more importantly for kids, and how she has worked so hard and with so much dedication to share her passion with the thousands of children who have visited her in the library.

For the past 8 years, Judy Kelly has been an indispensable part of our Hanscom schools. She has been the kind and welcoming face of our library, and she breathed life into our library program as it merged and grew and weathered an incredible amount of change. I am grateful to have had Judy as a partner as we designed, built, and opened our beautiful new Hanscom library, and I know that her incredible gift for making everyone feel welcome there is going to be remembered by all.

Thank you Judy, from me, from our library team, and from everyone in our Hanscom community. Congratulations on your retirement.



# Patrick MacMillan

*by Michael Haines*

*June 3, 2021*

Patrick is one of those people who knows absolutely everybody in the Lincoln Public Schools community. He knows everyone in the Town community as well. If you drive down Lincoln Road with Patrick, you will undoubtedly wave or tap the horn to two, three, four, or more vehicles along the way. The same is true when walking the hallways of any Lincoln School building with him. He is well-known, well-liked and always welcomed in any area.

I always liked to go out to lunch with Patrick. We both like Chang Ans in Concord and occasionally the Great Wall in Bedford. We would bring a set of drawings or some type of Sequence of Operations manual for an HVAC system that we owned or one that was in the process of being handed over to us.

Our lunchtime system reviews and follow up discussions were created in between bites of delicious Chinese food. Our working lunch discussions would often lead to a list of situations that we would use to identify problems or changes with systems. We did this time after time and all of our "Chinese food lunches" made vast improvements to the LPS mechanical systems. We would condense our thoughts down to a manageable paragraph or two, and I would bring these questions to project meetings. Our "Chinese food lunch" discussions have helped LPS buildings in such a beneficial manner; something that I could not have imagined when we first decided to hit the Chang An's buffet. They were fun and productive and well-worth every penny. Thank you Patrick.

Patrick has done many, many things in what has been a very long and productive construction/facilities career. From simply hanging pictures and white boards to installing and repairing plumbing and electrical or rebuilding motors and compressors to carpentry framing and HVAC systems programming, Patrick has done it all and then some.

At work, Patrick would analyze a situation. He would then contemplate what he needed to do to make the repair or build the item. After that he would pick his chosen tools, lay them out on the floor or roof or wherever he needed them, and he would never need to go back to the truck or tool box to get another tool. From start to finish, he had the entire process laid out before he even picked up a hammer or turned a screwdriver. It was simply amazing how well he planned and anticipated what could happen during any type of repair or build.

Patrick is one of the most talented men I've ever had the pleasure to work with. His talents shine through in his carpentry, mechanical aptitude, and problem-solving skills. Working with Patrick was like being on the set of "This Old House" every day. What a pleasure! Thank you, Patrick.

We all know the story of making chicken salad out of chicken bleep. Well Pat is the epitome of that statement. If needed he could make a concrete block float in midair and then make that same concrete block float down the river and out to sea. He always got the job done.

Some years back, Patrick and I attended an HVAC control class for a week's worth of intense training. Patrick picked the training up so quickly that he was making operational change suggestions to technicians who had years of experience in that field and they agreed with him more often than not.

Many members of the community have relied on Patrick's knowledge to aid them with their home owner repair problems and questions as well. He was always willing to advise the

community. I know he continues to be a fantastic resource for all types of issues for his friends and family.

Patrick was hired on March 17, 1997 and he recently passed his 24 year anniversary. I'd like to think someone had a sense of humor here hiring a person named Patrick on St. Patrick's Day. Bravo! And I have said it before and will say it again, whoever made the call to offer him a position at LPS on that day made an outstanding decision.

Patrick graduated from Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in 1986 with a diploma in Academics and Carpentry. He was born in Bermuda in the late 60's. His father was active duty Air Force, stationed there at the time of his birth. His folks brought him home to Billerica shortly thereafter, and to this day Patrick is still now and always will be considered a "blow in" or "just visiting," as Billerica residents like to say!

Patrick enjoys fishing, and he loves heading up north to the lake regions of New Hampshire and Maine. He has designed and constructed his own house from scratch. He has also helped construct bridges along some of our local highways. And, he is an expert in cabinetmaker. He is extremely reliable, honest, hardworking, trustworthy and fair. It has been an absolute joy to work with him.

To borrow (and change) a few words from Tom Petty. If the song "Free Falling" was written about a boy instead of a girl, then the lyrics would go like this; He's a good boy, loves his momma, loves Jesus and America too! Mr. Petty would be describing Patrick perfectly.

Cheers to you, my friend! You have been missed, you are missed and you will continue to be missed.

And Patrick, I promise you that I will continue, as I'm sure you will, to HATE blast chillers of all types.

# Jane Mosier

by Denise Oldham

June 3, 2021

It is my pleasure to be honoring Jane Mosier tonight. There is a lot to know about Jane that most people don't know! Jane has an incredibly interesting educational background prior to becoming... the amazing teacher that she is. Jane's educational background is nothing but impressive. In 1980, Jane earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology at *Towson State University*, Towson Maryland. In 1983, Jane earned a Masters of Sciences degree in Ergonomics at *Loughborough University* in, Loughborough, England. In 1994 Jane earned a Masters of Sciences degree in Computer Science, *Boston University MET College*, Boston, MA, and in 2006, Jane earned a Masters of Education Degree in Moderate Special Education PreK-8 at *Lesley University* in Cambridge, MA.

Before Jane was teaching, she stayed home with her two wonderful girls after adopting them from China. Jane says, "this is the best decision she ever made." Elizabeth was adopted in 1998 and Meg was adopted in 1999.

From 1981-1982, Jane worked at the Essex Corporation in Alexandria, Virginia and spent her time there evaluating the usability and safety of nuclear power plants.

From 1984 to 1999, Jane worked for the MITRE Corporation in the role of technical staff to the principal engineer. While there she researched collaboration and use of technology and published results in journals and magazines and taught adult education classes. She managed a research team that identified teams in need of collaborative writing support, designed improvement strategies and taught teams to use them and she also measured and published results. She Designed user interfaces to computer-based tools and worked with software developers to build them.

After Jane adopted her two children, she decided to become a teacher. She realized just how great it is to spend her days with children!

Jane began her teaching career at CASE Collaborative in Concord teaching preschool for hearing impaired students and worked as a substitute teacher. She completed her teaching practicum at CASE Collaborative in Carlisle, teaching students with developmental delays. She then taught at the Acton Integrated Preschool for her student teaching and moved on to her first professional teaching experience at Norman E. Day School in Westford. In 2007, Jane began teaching in Bedford, MA as a special education teacher in Kindergarten and first grade.

It was in 2014 that Lincoln was lucky enough to hire Jane Mosier as a Kindergarten and grade 1 special education teacher at Hanscom Primary School. I have had the pleasure of working with Jane for many years, some in Bedford, but most at Hanscom. There are not enough words to describe Jane as a human being...not just a teacher, just as a person. She is thoughtful, caring, passionate, calm, nurturing, helpful, dedicated, hardworking and has a great sense of humor.

Jane is one of the most creative teachers I have ever met. She makes learning fun and I have never seen anyone else come up with lesson ideas that capture student's attention like Jane has. Most importantly, Jane helps kids successfully learn and feel good about who they are! She cares for and truly honors every student she encounters.

Jane is an extraordinarily supportive teammate. She is always willing to listen, process and offer advice. She has acted as a mentor to many and is always willing to share her knowledge and always willing to drop what she is doing to help a colleague.

Jane has a natural way of making connections with children and families that has always been appreciated. She creates an atmosphere of collaboration that is above and beyond! Jane dedicates her heart and soul to her work. There is no need too big and there is no challenge that can't be solved. She is always all in!

Jane sees each student as a whole person. She can deeply analyze a student's needs and make a strategic plan to give each child the very best possible school experience. She is incredibly knowledgeable in her field and is always willing to learn more.

Jane's professionalism, smarts, dedication to her job are just a small part of what makes her so special. She is a problem solver, advisor, colleague and friend to many.

Jane, here are some well wishes from your colleagues:

We hope that:

- You get to travel as much as your heart desires
- You get to spend lots of quality time with family and friends
- You get to sleep in and not have to worry about sending emails at 4am!
- You spend time visiting with your daughters Meg and Elizabeth
- You get to dine and eat delicious food
- You always remember the positive & everlasting impact you've had on all of us at HPS