

**WILLIAMSVILLE C.U.S.D. #15**



October 2016

# **DISTRICT DISPATCH**

**A Publication for Community Members**

**From the Superintendent's Desk**

## **Full Disclosure**

Frankly, I have struggled for days on what I should share with all of you in this space. As you all know this space has been reserved for nearly a decade for the thoughts, ideas, and opinions of our late superintendent, David J. Root. Most of you would agree with me that he did an excellent job of conveying information, explaining sometimes complex school finance, and generally trying to be as transparent as possible on the issues facing Williamsville-Sherman CUSD # 15.

Any thoughts I might share with you today about Dave will be inadequate compared to those so artfully delivered in the eulogies at Dave's funeral by his brother Darren and close friend, Clay Shoufler. In addition, the article and tribute written by our own Byron Painter in the Sun-Times was so heartfelt in every way. It was truly outstanding journalism.

Let me begin, as I have in almost every meeting I have had with every group associated with the school district, by saying "I am not Dave, I do not want to be Dave." There will always be only one Dave Root!

However, I continue to feel tremendously humbled that Dave personally asked me, prior to his passing, to assume this position. His passion and concern for the school district never wavered even in the last days of his life. The best way I can honor my friend Dave is to lead the Williamsville-Sherman District #15 in a manner I think would make him proud.

I must say that in my 3+ weeks on the job I have never encountered so many people who have been so kind and supportive. Everyone has been tremendous and I will need that support for many months to come as I take on the most challenging assignment of my career. However, let me be clear that I intend to make this the greatest assignment I have ever experienced!

Finally, the issues and challenges facing our school district, and most school districts across the State of Illinois, continue to be growing greater and greater each year. I pledge to continue to share information, attempt to explain these issues, and remain as transparent as possible as the Board of Education, administration, and staff strive to maintain the "Commitment to Excellence" established by Dave Root.

Don Beard  
Interim Superintendent