



**SUPERINTENDENT DR. TOM MULLIGAN, second from left in photo on left, reads about the contributions retiring Arcola School Board members have made with more than half of century of service. Board members seated and with plaques, are, from left, Jim Crane, Chad Strader, Craig Wesch and Dr. Robert Arrol.**



# Retiring School Board members served 54 years

The experience level of the Arcola School District Board of Education took a significant hit on Wednesday, May 10, when four members stepped down from the School Board after several years of service. In total, the Board members leaving have served over 54 years on the Arcola School Board.

Superintendent Dr. Tom Mulligan presented each Board member with a plaque from the district in sincere appreciation for their many years of service to the children of Arcola. Dr. Mulligan also made a few comments about each Board member.

Dr. Mulligan indicated that Craig Wesch had served on the

Board for four years. He came on the Board just prior to the pandemic and was instrumental in helping to lead the district through that challenging time. Dr. Mulligan also shared that Craig always read, researched, and really thought through issues before making a decision. He was a terrific listener and was always very prepared and took his role and responsibility as a Board member very seriously.

Dr. Mulligan then recognized Chad Strader, who served 15 years on the School Board with many of those years serving as Board president. Dr. Mulligan reiterated that Chad was tremendous at viewing all issues from differ-

ent perspectives. He also shared that Chad's years of experience as a coach and his passion for working with children really helped shape him as a Board member. Chad always showed great compassion and if he was going to error, it was going to be on the side of a child. Mr. Strader then shared a few words with those present. He thanked the entire community for the tremendous support over the years. He is very proud of the district and its accomplishments and that he often receives compliments about the district from people outside the community. He thanked Dr. Mulligan and all of the staff for their commitment

to the district. He also thanked the Board members for their service and wished the new Board luck going forward.

Dr. Mulligan then recognized Jim Crane who served 16 years on the School Board, many of those years as president or vice president. Dr. Mulligan joked that if you looked up the word volunteer in the dictionary you might just see a picture of Jim. Not only did he fulfil his duties as a Board member, he went above and beyond by volunteering his engineering expertise to the district on many occasions and also by coaching middle school athletics all completely as a volunteer. Dr. Mulligan indicat-

ed that Jim demanded fairness and equal treatment for everyone and that he constantly reminded the Board about the importance of being transparent to the community. Mr. Crane then shared a few comments as well. He shared that the saying "leave it better than you found it" really applies here. He feels that he and his fellow Board members are definitely doing that with the school district.

Finally, Dr. Mulligan recognized Dr. Robert Arrol. Dr. Arrol served a total of 19 years on the School Board though in two different stints. Dr. Mulligan shared that the Board will greatly miss Dr.

Arrol's knowledge of the history of Arcola and also his passion for the community. Dr. Mulligan also shared that Dr. Arrol strongly believes in fiscal responsibility as well as professional, legal, and ethical conduct for everyone involved in the school. Dr. Mulligan closed by saying that Dr. Arrol always modeled those ideals in his own conduct on the Board. His experience and wisdom will be greatly missed on the Board.

The entire school community would like to thank these four individuals for the profound impact they have had on thousands of children in Arcola over many years. They will be greatly missed.

## School Board

From page 1

Board secretary. They also decided to keep the monthly board meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. In addition, they appointed committee members. They adjourned the reorganizational meeting.

They then opened the regular May Board meeting and conducted the following business:

A. Consideration of Action on First Reading for Handbook Changes for 2023-2024 school year - The Board approved the first reading on the handbooks. The biggest issue discussed was related to determining class valedictorian. The proposal for next year is to move from the current practice of determining valedictorian to a weighted grades approach. All policy related items (including handbooks

changes) require a first reading and then a second reading. This gives the public a chance to share their thoughts on the proposed changes. The high school administration plans to have a meeting with parents to gather input prior to the June Board meeting.

B. Consideration of Action on First Reading for PRESS Policies from March 2023 - the Board approved the first reading of the Board policies.

C. Consideration of Action on the Tentative Amended Budget for 2022-2023 School Year and set the Amended Budget Hearing for June 14, 2023 at 7 pm - the Board approved the tentative amended budget changes and set the amended budget hearing for June 14, 2023 at 7 pm.

D. Consideration of Action on Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2023-2024 school year - the Board approved the increase of

\$0.10 in lunch prices for the 23-24 school year.

This will make the prices \$3.10 for K-8 and \$3.35 for high school. The school is required by the federal lunch program to compare the district's average price for lunch to the federal reimbursement rates for students on free lunch. This year, the district was \$0.48 below federal pricing guidelines but the Board approved a required \$0.10 increase.

E. Consideration of Action on Student Fees for 2023-2024 School Year - the Board approved continuing the elimination of all student fees for the 2023-2024 school, except the technology insurance fee, driver's education and dual credit fees.

F. Consideration of Action to Add New Activity Fund Accounts and Close an Existing Account - the Board approved establishing the

activity fund account for the Class of 2027 and the Board also approved closing the activity account for the Class of 2023. The Board must approve any and all changes to the activity account.

G. Consideration of Action on Copier Agreement - the Board approved a new five-year lease agreement with Watts Copiers for the junior high copier, high school copier, library copier, special service and district office copiers.

H. Consideration of Action on Property and Liability Insurance for 2023-2024 - the Board approved the renewal from Selective for the property and liability insurance for 2023-2024 at an amount of \$60,406.

I. Consideration of Action on the Bank Depository for the 2023-2024 school year - the Board approved Arcola First Bank as depository.

J. Consideration of Action on the Consolidated Grant

Agreement- the Board approved the grant agreement, which is a comprehensive document required to be completed annually that outlines the district plan for using all federal grant funds for the following school year.

K. Consideration of Action on the Purchase of ViewSonic Boards - the Board approved the purchase of 20 classroom View Sonic boards for \$39,340.

Mrs. Behrends presented to the Board on the boards and reported that there 18 teachers district-wide that have agreed to pilot the use of the boards next year in their classroom. They will be receiving training this summer.

L. Consideration of Action on Asbestos Bid - the Board approved the base bid from Triple A Asbestos for \$26,000 plus alternative bids totaling \$9,500 for a total of \$35,500. They will be removing

asbestos from the high school locker rooms during July. The Board has discussed renovating the locker rooms in the summer of 2024 and needed to remove asbestos this summer to be able to fit a remodel in during one summer.

M. Consideration of Action on Officials Pay - the Board approved an increase in officials pay for 2023-2024.

N. Consideration of action on the Resignation of Staff - the Board accepted the resignation from Brooklyn Howard as preschool teacher.

O. Consideration of action on the Employment of Staff - The Board approved the employment of the extra-curricular coaches/sponsors for 2023-2024 school year. They also approved the employment of Diane Good as part-time food service director and Brooke Eckart as full-time cook beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

# Phillips, Roberts-McGeehon place in three events at state

By Mike Monahan

EAST PEORIA - Arcola eighth graders Brody Phillips and Remi Roberts-McGeehon placed in three events in the Illinois Elementary School Association Class 2A state track meet last Friday and Saturday at EastSide Centre.

The eighth grade had the best finish for Arcola, placing 10th with 18.5 points in the meet won by Rock Falls St. Andrew with 44 points.

There were 50 teams that scored at least one point.

Brandon Sanches was the lone Purple Rider seventh grader to place as he was seventh in the 100 and no seventh grade girls placed in the meet where the top eight placed.

### Eighth grade boys

Phillips had the highest place finish for Arcola as he was third in the high jump at 5-7. He was also fifth in the

100 with a time of 12.06 seconds.

Roberts-McGeehon was fifth in the 200 in 24.74 and fifth in the long jump at 19-7. Both Roberts-McGeehon and Phillips were on the eighth place 4x100 relay team that also included A.J. Stevens and Carson Jewell. Their time was 49.36.

The 10th place finish is the best since 2018 when the eighth grade finished sixth.

### Seventh grade boys

Sanches ran the 100 in 13.09, while the 4x100 team was 15th with a time of 56.14. It consisted of Jordan Gingrich, Jahel Galaviz, Ronnie Vega and Sanches.

### Eighth grade girls

The top finished for Arcola was Jaiden Miller, who was 12th in the long jump going 14-7. She was also in the 14th place 4x100 relay team along with Emmalee Reel, Olivia Gisinger and Aymara Leal.

### Boys (top 8 placed) all

### Arcoa esults Class 2A state meet

**Seventh grade**  
100: 7. Brandon Sanchez 13.09  
4x100: 15. Jordan Gingrich, Jahel Galaviz, Ronnie Vega, Sanchez 56.14  
**Eighth grade**  
100: 5. Brody Phillips 12.06  
200: 5. Remi Roberts-McGeehon 24.74  
800: 10. Carson Jewell 2:17.04

4x100: 8. A. J. Stevens, Roberts-McGeehon, Jewell, Phillips 49.36

High jump: 3. Phillips 5-7  
Long jump: 5. Roberts-McGeehon 19-7

### Girls all Arcola results Class 2A state meet

**Eighth grade**  
4x100: 14. Emmalee Reel, Olivia Gisinger, Aymara Leal, Jaiden Miller 55.85  
Long jump: 12. Jaide Miller 14-7

## Track

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other competitors, including one from Champaign Centennial and one from Urbana. He won by a half of a foot over the second place triple jumper.

Kelsey Moore, the lone girl competitor for the Lady Riders ran the 400 and finished with a PR of 1:03.32, good for fifth place, also beating a runner from Centennial and Urbana. Her time was 1.62 seconds faster than her previous best.

Mitchel Myers finished second in the discus and fourth in

the shot put at 173-6 and 52-9 respectively. Myers lost to last year's state champion, Garrett Taylor, who has been a thorn in Myers' side. Taylor went 186-5.

### Monday Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette Honor Roll meet at Urbana

**Boys (Arcola results)**  
Shot put: 4. Mitchel Myers 52-9  
Discus: 2. Myers 173-6  
Triple jump: 1. Braden Phillips 40-10 3/4  
Girls (Arcola results)  
400: 5. Kelsey Moore 1:03.32!  
!-personal record

### May 14

**Shelbyville boys open team scores:** 1. Newton 114, 2. Mt. Zion 90, 3. Shelbyville 69, 4. Sullivan 44, 5. Pana 37, 6. Effingham St. Anthony 35, 7. Marshall 32, 8. Altamont 30.5, 9. Teutopolis 26, 10. Tie, Arcola, Central A&M 21, 12. Cumberland 19.5, 13. Villa

Grove 10, 14. Tie, Brownstown/St. Elmo, Cowden-Herrick/Beecher City 3, 16. Meridian 2, 17. Warrensburg-Latham 1

**Arcola placers (top 6)**  
Shot put: 1. Mitchell Myers 52-4  
Discus: 1. Myers 174-0  
Triple jump: 6. Braden Phillips 40-0

### May 11

**Class 1A girls track sectional at Okaw Valley Team scores:** 1. Shelbyville 111, 2. Tuscola 91, 3. Maroa-Forsyth 66, 4. Sullivan 59, 5. Cerro Gordo/Bement 51, 6. Meridian 40, 7. Decatur St. Teresa 30, 8. Arcola 18, 9. Warrensburg-Latham 18, 10. Okaw Valley 16, 11. Warrensburg-Latham 17, 12. Tie, Argenta-Oreana, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 12, 14. Cowden-Herrick/Beecher City 10, 15. Tie, Central A&M and Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg 2, 17. Pana 1

### Arcola results (top 6 places) \*-qualified for state, !-personal record, #-school record

400: 4. Ema Simpson 1:01.48\*  
300 hurdles: 3. Kelsey Moore 48.28\*#

4x100: 6. Moore, Eva Hopkins, Crystal Ramirez, Simpson 53.53  
4x400: 4. Rameriz, Hopkins, Simpson, Moore 4:25.79

### Long jump: 4. Simpson 16-0

### May 8 Salt Fork throwers meet

**Boys**  
Shot put: 2. Myers 51-6  
Discus: 2. Myers 178-1, 5. Michael Gauna 122-8

### Girls

Shot put: 2. Emma Vazquez 27-6, 3. Hayden Gauna 27-0, 6. Shelby Roberts-McGeehon 23-9!  
Discus: 1. Roberts-McGeehon 84-7; 4. Myka Gomez 69-5

### Arcola boys ready for sectional

The Arcola boys track team is set to compete in the Class 1A Tuscola Sectional Wednesday, May 17, with the

field events to start at 4:30 p.m. and the running events at 6 p.m.

Teams competing in the sectional are Arcola, Argenta-Oreana/Decatur LSA, Decatur Christian,, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond, Okaw Valley, Cerro Gordo/Bement, Decatur St. Teresa, DeLand-Weldon, Meridian, Maroa-Forsyth, Marshall, Central A&M, Mt. Pulaski, Neoga, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City, Pana, Shelbyville, Sullivan, Tuscola and Warrensburg-Latham.

The top two in each event or by qualifying time or distance advance to the Class 1A

state preliminaries May 25 at Eastern Illinois Universities O'Brien Stadium.

The following qualifying distances or times are: 100 (11.35), 200 (23.08), 400 (52.18), 800 (2:02.82), 1,600 (4:39.80), 3,200 (10:12.64), 110 hurdles (16.26), 300 hurdles (42.37), 4x100 (44.63), 4x200 (1:33.99), 4x400 (3:35.17), 4x800 (8:33.28), long jump (20-10, 6.35 meters), triple jump (41-2, 12.54 meters), high jump (6-1, 1.85 meters), shot put (47-11 14.60 meters), and discus (141-3 43.05 meters).