

# Akron Beacon Journal

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## EDUCATION

# Akron school employees reinstated, Buchtel CLC principal to stay



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## Key Points

The Akron school board has reinstated 15 of the 17 employees who were set to be laid off as of July 1.

Most of the employees have taken lateral positions.

Some employees will take positions that were vacated due to a reshuffling of administrators.

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Most of the Akron Public Schools employees [whose jobs were cut](#) to help prevent a budget shortfall will not be leaving the district after all.

The Akron school board on June 22 reinstated 15 of the 17 employees who were set to be laid off as of July 1. Most of the employees have taken [lateral positions](#), which they will begin July 1 with the start of the new school year.

The school board approved cutting the 17 positions in May as part of Superintendent Mary Outley's plan to reduce the district's \$386 million main operating budget by at least \$11 million without teacher layoffs. The job cuts saved \$1.66 million, with the rest of the cuts coming through administrative and operational budget reductions.

The reduced positions included six deans of students, who serve as assistant principals; six intervention specialist paraprofessionals, who assist students with special education needs under the guidance of a classroom teacher; four learning resource center technicians, who work within the library or media center to support

operations and student learning; and one art therapist whose position was considered redundant after an art teacher was hired at the school.

Outley expects the board to reinstate the art therapist once she obtains her certification to become a full-time art teacher.

One learning resource center technician was not reinstated; Outley said the employee chose not to take a different job within the district. An early learning program coordinator whose position was cut due to grant funding reductions also has not returned.

Outley said she is happy that the employees are staying within the district. They are filling vacant positions that already are factored into the district's budget for the upcoming school year. The district, which is hosting [a job fair](#) June 29, still has dozens of vacant positions to fill before the start of school in August, according to its website.

## **Buchtel principal to stay; other Akron principals reassigned**

All of the reinstated deans were able to take a dean or assistant principal position – rather than return to the classroom as a teacher as Outley initially believed – due to a reshuffling of administrators.

The school board on June 22 approved several new principal assignments for the upcoming school year.

Not on the reassignment list is LaCresia Denson, campus principal at Buchtel Community Learning Center. Outley confirmed that Denson will remain at Buchtel.

More than a dozen people, including recent graduates and school employees, attended the Akron school board meeting on June 8 to [urge the school board](#) to keep Denson as Buchtel's principal. They praised Denson for bringing stability to the school, creating a family atmosphere and challenging the community perception that the school is dangerous.

Denson, a Buchtel graduate who has served as an athletic coach, teacher, assistant principal and interim principal before becoming Buchtel's campus principal in 2023, did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Here are the employees who are taking new principal assignments for the upcoming school year:

Darby Baumberger, dean of students at Betty Jane Community Learning Center, will become the principal at Hatton Community Learning Center. Baumberger's annual salary will increase from \$107,850 to \$118,063, effective July 27. She succeeds Theresa Essandoh who resigned as Hatton's principal on June 12.

Amanda Brown, dean of students at Barber Community Learning Center, will become the principal at Resnik Community Learning Center. Her annual salary will increase from \$103,938 to \$115,181, effective July 27. She will succeed Elizabeth Toppin, a dean of students who was serving as interim principal.

Larissa Brown, academy principal at East Community Learning Center, will become East's campus principal. Brown's annual salary will increase from \$124,370 to \$136,848, effective July 1. She succeeds Walter Noland.

Christopher Haynes, academy principal at Buchtel Community Learning Center, will become the principal at Litchfield Community Learning Center. His annual salary will increase from \$122,066 to \$134,191, effective July 27. He will succeed Nicole Henry-Mack, who had been serving as Litchfield's interim principal.

Henry-Mack will become an academy principal at Akron Early College High School. Her salary will decrease from \$131,033 to \$129,206, effective Aug. 10.

Shelby Morgan, dean of students who was serving as interim principal at Schumacher Community Learning Center, will become Schumacher's principal. Morgan's salary will increase from \$112,208 to \$118,063, effective July 27.

Vickie Person, dean of students at Case Community Learning Center, will become Case's principal. Her annual salary will increase from \$107,850 to \$118,063, effective July 27. She will succeed Matthew Doslak.

Ricky Sims, an assistant principal who has been serving as the interim principal at Innes Community Learning Center, will become Innes' principal. His annual

salary will increase from \$131,281 to \$134,191, effective July 27.

The board also approved the transfer of Tina Loughry, campus principal at Firestone Community Learning Center since 2022. She will become the academy principal at Ellet Community Learning Center. Her annual salary will decrease from \$140,709 to \$124,508, effective Aug. 10.

The board also accepted the retirement of Pharon Hranko, principal of Seiberling Community Learning Center, effective July 24.

Their replacements have not been publicly announced.

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