

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

The Hancock Central School District wishes the following staff members the best of luck in retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Happy Retirement! **LORRAINE PUZANSKAS**

POSITION

Elementary School Teacher

RETIRING AFTER

30 years

LAST DAY AT HCSD

June 30, 2018

QUOTABLE

"The kids, they are the best. Regardless of what's going on in your personal life, they are the driving force."



LORRAINE PUZANSKAS

Elementary School Teacher

Lorraine Puzanskas had tears for all of her years at the Hancock Central School District – and then some.

"I never thought I'd start crying just talking about retirement," Brooklyn-born Puzanskas, who has exclusively taught first and second grade at Hancock Elementary School for the last 30 years, said while her teary eyes fluttered. "There are kids everywhere and they're such an important asset. I treat all of them the same way, fairly and without judgment."

The youngest of four children – she has two sisters and a brother – moved from Brooklyn to upstate New York with her family and wound up graduating from the Sidney Central School District. Puzanskas went on to major in Reading and Elementary Education at the State University College at Oneonta, where she earned both undergraduate and master's degrees.

"Right after college, I had bills to pay," she said. "I put myself through college and achieved my goal. Things work out for a reason.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," she continued. "We used to play school at home and I was always the teacher. You have to find your passion. It's important, too, if you think you're not going to be able to achieve something and you do it. Nobody can ever take that away from you."

Perhaps that's why Puzanskas got emotional simply talking about a retirement that won't be official until June 30.

"The kids, they are the best," she said. "Regardless of what's going on in your personal life or here (at school), they are the driving force."

Retirement plans for the Sidney Center resident include, but are not limited to, visiting said siblings in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia; a possible a trip to Alaska; and, pardon the pun, focusing more on photography.

"I love photography – eagles, sunsets, stuff like that," she said. "I have no set plans, but I know I'm going to have to find something or I'll be bored."

Happy Retirement!

BILL CHRISTIAN

POSITION

Technology Coordinator

RETIRING AFTER

20 years

LAST DAY AT HCSD

March 31, 2018

QUOTABLE

"Hancock has really been a wonderful thing for me and it's something I'll never forget."



BILL CHRISTIAN

Technology Coordinator

If you didn't get a chance to say goodbye to Bill Christian, don't worry, he'll be around.

"The majority of the teachers have been wonderful," said Bill, whose last day working for the Hancock Central School District was March 31. "I'm going to really miss a lot of them. But one good thing is that a lot of them live here in town, so I'll still see them."

Where and when is anyone's guess, though, as this jack-of-all-trades said he plans to stay busy following 20 years as HCSD's Technology Coordinator.

Bill grew up in two cities – his birthplace of Newport News, Virginia, with his father and Philadelphia with his mother – and attended 12 schools before joining the Marine Corps. After serving four years in the Marines, the former high school football player went from steel-mill worker to city policeman in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He went on to join the Pennsylvania State Police, but marriage soon changed everything.

"I moved around a lot because things had to keep my attention; I had a very short attention span," said Bill, who met his wife, Barbara, more than three decades ago. "I ended up marrying a young lady from Cadosia and we ended up coming here."

Bill and his wife, a professional baker, kept the Country Bake Shop in business for 18 years before the couple realized they were missing something.

"When my son graduated from high school, we realized we didn't see him grow up," said Bill, who had two other school-aged children – Lanie and Rocco – at the time. "We were doing fine, but we had to do something about this," he continued. "So I ended up working for Hancock Telephone doing tech support for (its Internet service) Pronet. When I was working there, (HCSD) bought a lot of computers for the school and I was asked to give them a hand.

"It wasn't a job I was planning to keep, but it ended up being 20 years! Anything that had to do with computers; that was me. And I'm all self-taught because with technology, you can't fool people."

So, Bill, does anything stand out after 20 years on the job?

"Everything does," he said. "It all kind of runs together. I've done a lot of things in my life, different jobs and everything like that. I've definitely been around. I've probably done work for every business in town here. But Hancock has really been a wonderful thing for me and it's something I'll never forget."

Happy Retirement!

SHARON DRUMM

POSITION

Secretary to Superintendent

RETIRING AFTER

Five years in position;
16 years overall

LAST DAY AT HCSD

August 31, 2018

QUOTABLE

"I liked working with the kids.
There was always something
going on."



SHARON DRUMM

Secretary to Superintendent

When one door closed, another one opened for Sharon Drumm.

The latter happened 16 years ago at the Hancock Central School District, where Drumm will spend the final days of her career this summer.

"I liked working with kids because there was always something going on," said Drumm, who landed at HCSD after the medical supplies company Becton Dickinson closed its Hancock branch more than a decade ago. "Every day is something new."

Originally from Preston Park, Pennsylvania, Drumm is a product of Preston Elementary School in the Wayne Highlands Central School District. She later graduated from Hancock High School as part of a longstanding agreement that allows Wayne Highlands-area students to pursue higher education in the Delaware County town of nearby Hancock, New York. Her formal education also includes one year of business school in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

After Becton Dickinson left Hancock, Drumm spent the next 11 years as HCSD's Guidance Office Secretary. She has served HCSD as its Secretary to the Superintendent for the last five years, working closely with HCSD Superintendent Terrance Dougherty during that time.

Sharon said she plans to spend more time with her family following her final day at HCSD, which is August 31.

"My husband (Scott) and I like to go to concerts and I have a garden," said Sharon, whose sons, Tom and Steve, are also Hancock graduates. "And I love my little dog, Coco, a long-haired Chihuahua. Other than that, I'm not planning to do too much!"

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Happy Retirement!

MAUREEN HUNT

POSITION

Guidance Secretary

RETIRING AFTER

Five years in position;
Nine years overall

LAST DAY AT HCSD

July 13, 2018

QUOTABLE

"I'm going to miss the people and the kids. The kids are so cute, even when they're being not-so cute."



MAUREEN HUNT

Guidance Secretary

If it seems like Maureen Hunt has been helping people her entire life, that's probably because she has. And if you think Maureen's just going to help herself after retiring from the Hancock Central School District on July 13, think again.

"I'm going to look for a part-time job in Hancock," said Maureen, a Brooklyn native who moved to Hancock with her husband, Neil, in the early 1970s and has been here ever since. "We liked it here and we have good friends."

Although Maureen and Neil both had ties to the Binghamton area, they actually met at a party in Brooklyn 49 years ago. At the time, Maureen was pursuing a degree at SUNY Broome and her future husband lived in nearby Binghamton. The two have been married for 48 years and have a son, Mark, who graduated from Hancock.

Maureen worked as a legal assistant in Hancock for 32 years – spending 16 of those as a member of the Board of Education – before joining the HCSD as a Career and Technical Education secretary. After four years in that position, Maureen started the first of her five years as a secretary in the Guidance Department.

"I'm going to miss the people and the kids," said Maureen, a graduate of St. Joseph's High School for Women in Brooklyn who worked three years for the Morgan Guarantee Trust Company before moving to Hancock. "The kids are so cute, even when they're being not-so cute."