

Brian S. Graham, Ed.D.

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A servant leader shares power,
puts the needs of the others first
and helps people develop and
perform as highly as possible.

*"As a board member, you come
across a few administrators that
just "have it". They are the
complete package of intelligence,
work ethic, passion for education,
and are a natural with teachers,
parents, business leaders and
students. Dr. Graham has been
that person for the Grand Island
Central School District from day
one."*

Dr. Ashli Dreher
Board President

Education, Honors, and Certifications

Doctor of Educational Leadership

Dissertation Title: The Implementation of an Effort Program to Increase
Grade Point Average for Middle School Students
D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY. 2015

Educational Leadership SDA, SAS

Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY. 2003

Masters of Science – Special Education

Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY. 1990

Bachelors of Science – Elementary and Special Education

Daemen College, Amherst, NY. 1986

Permanent Certifications

NY State School District Administrator 2003

NY State Elementary (N-6) and Special Education (N-12)

Grand Island Chamber of Commerce – Citizen of the Year Outstanding Leadership (2023)

Western New York Educational Service Council (2019)

Superintendent Award

Erie County Association of School Boards (2019)

Growing Readers - Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award

Erie County Association of School Boards (2015)

Raising Readers - Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award

West Seneca Lions Club (2011)

Community Service Award

West Seneca Kiwanis Club (2005)

Recognition of Educational Leadership

*I have come to know Dr. Graham
as a resolute and passionate
leader, and a fierce advocate for
the learning of all children.*

Michael Cornell
Superintendent

*"He is a natural collaborator,
whose incredible success is
grounded in his abilities to
develop stakeholders with a true
sense of ownership in initiatives."*

Jon MacSwan
Superintendent

Coach of the Year (2002)
Alden Central Schools

Able Net Inclusion Award (1999)
"Enhancing the quality of life for people with severe disabilities." Mary Kay Walch

Employment

Grand Island Central School District
Superintendent (2016-Present)

West Seneca Central School District
Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services (2013-2016)
Principal – West Middle School (2006 – 2013)
Principal – Winchester Elementary School (2002 – 2006)

Daemen College
Adjunct Instructor – Weekend Master's Program (2002 – 2012)

Alden Central Schools
Special Education Teacher (1995 – 2002)

Erie 1 BOCES
Basic Employment Skills Training Coordinator (1993 – 1995)

Heritage Centers
Special Education Teacher (1986 – 1993)

Superintendent Leadership Experiences

- Oversight of a district with over 2,800 students, 5 schools, and a \$73 million budget
- Strong emphasis on developing a positive and productive working relationship with stakeholders from the Grand Island Schools community including members of the Board of Education, faculty, staff, families, students, and community partners
- Frequent building and classroom visits that include substantive dialogue with faculty, staff, and students

“Dr. Graham gained the trust and respect of his peers and families, in large part, for the unconditional commitment he made to his students and their academic programs.”

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent

“It is clear that he is a high quality and laser focused educational leader, who has been a perfect ambassador for the various constituencies that he represents.”

Dr. Jeffery Rabey
Superintendent

- Visible on campuses and at district events
- Led the development of a five-year strategic plan
- Led the Increase of Student Achievement
- Highly accessible and responsive
- Strong relationships with community partners (e.g. Town Government, Town Police, Civic Organizations, local businesses, etc.)
- Oversight of academic programming that focuses on growth for all learners
- Prioritization of curricular alignment through work with curricular leaders and activities such as curriculum and course audits
- Passage of \$24.1 million capital improvement project that included new security entrances for the MS and HS, a multi-sport synthetic complex and renovations at each school building

Contributions - Professional Learning Community

- University at Buffalo – Current Member of the External Advisory Board with the new Artificial Intelligence Institute for Exceptional Education
- Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association – Current Vice President
- Creator and Host of the Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools Podcast – Over 5,600 downloads since September of 2022
- Creator and Host of the Inspiring Viking Values Podcast – Over 2,700 downloads since February of 2023
- Presenter at the National Superintendents Forum in San Diego – The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Exceptional Education (Dec, 2023)
- Presenter at the NYSCOSS Conference – How to Shine a Spotlight on Your District Through Podcasting (October, 2023)
- WNYRIC Advisory Board – Past Member
- New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) House of Delegates
- AASA – The School Superintendents Association – Member
- Introduction to Effective Leadership – Advisory Board Member
- Grand Island School Business Alliance – Current Co-Chair
- ECMEA – Current Superintendent Advisor
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra – Education Advisory Committee Member

*I have seen Brian do nothing but
distinguish himself in every
challenge he has undertaken as
superintendent.*

Dr. Michael Vallely
Superintendent

*“Brian’s professionalism,
communication skills, knowledge
and sincere manner
accomplished tasks seamlessly.*

Tom Lyons
Retired Principal

- WNY Law Conference – Current Planning Team Advisor
- Growing Readers (Grand Island) –Putting Books in the Hands of Infants and Toddlers
- Raising Readers (West Seneca) –Putting Books in the Hands of Infants and Toddlers
- Buffalo Philharmonic Education Advisory Board – Current member
- Forecast 5 – Data Analytics Conference (2017, 2019)
- Kids Escaping Drugs - Face to Face Advisory Board – Former Member
- Steven Covey - Leader in Me workshop (2012)
- Presenter for the National Middle School Conference in November of 2010 – Baltimore
- Presenter for the Curriculum Mapping Conference in 2010 – Saratoga Springs NY
- National Middle School Conference in November of 2009 – Indianapolis Indiana
- Presenter for the Curriculum Mapping Institute in 2008 – Salt Lake City Utah
- Differentiated Instruction National Conference for ASCD in 2007 – Salt Lake City Utah
- Linking Understanding with Curriculum Mapping conference featuring Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Jay McTighe and Bena Kallick (4/20/06)
- Grant Wiggins workshop on Leading by Design (4/12/05)
- Debra Pickering workshop on Classroom Instruction That Works (2/8/05)
- Train the Trainer’s Curriculum Mapping conference with Heidi Hayes Jacobs (12/1/05)
- Four Blocks Leadership Conference – (1/17/04)
- Ruby Payne workshop on Poverty and Literacy (11/13/04)
- Previous Member of the Professional Developing Schools Consortium
- Previous Board member for West Seneca Kiwanis
- Previous Board Member for the Academy of Education – West Seneca Schools
- Previously a Health Benefit Trust – Trustee - West Seneca Administrators Association

"Brian Graham is both personally and professionally, as genuine a person as they come."

James Brotz
Retired Superintendent

Community Involvement

- University at Buffalo - External Advisory Board Member with the new Artificial Intelligence Institute for Exceptional Education
- Chair of the Growing Readers Project in Grand Island – Winner of the 2019 Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award from the Erie County Association of School Boards
- Grand Island Rotary – Current Member and Board of Director
- Christmas Eve Delivery Project – 32 Years – Delivering gifts for Children in Need in WNY Communities on Christmas Eve
- Former Chair of the West Seneca Cares for Kids Program – Community Initiative to Clothe the Needy
- Former Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Relief Fund for the victims of the Lexington Green Flooding (West Seneca)
- Former Chair of the Raising Readers WNY project in West Seneca - Winner of the Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award from the Erie County Association of School Boards
- West Seneca Kiwanis: Former Member and Board of Director
- Former Parish Council Member – St. Ambrose
- Hearts for the Homeless: Former Volunteer
- West Seneca Town Soccer– Developed the online registration system for West Seneca Soccer
- West Seneca Community – Coached the U-10 through U17 Boys Travel Soccer Team
- West Seneca Community – Coached the U-4 – U-8 House Soccer Teams
- West Seneca Community – Coached the Midget Youth Baseball Team