



Above from left: Lori Reed, Colleen Nassimos, Jackie Miller, Scott Briggs, Elizabeth DeRue, Kathy Zappia, Donna Holder and Donna Hamlin

The informal, evening reception in the Newark High School Library June 9<sup>th</sup> was a lovely way to say thank you and share heartfelt words of praise, expressions of gratitude and memories about Newark Central School District staff who have retired this year.

Superintendent Susan Hasenauer opened with expressions of appreciation for the employees' many years of faithful service to the Newark Central School District and her congratulations.

"There is a universal truth we all have to face whether we want to or not, but eventually everything comes to an end," she said. "However, today's ending is one that is celebratory. It marks a milestone, a true celebration because standing in front of you, these retirees collectively have 368 years total that they have impacted the lives of our students in the Newark community.

"So as you move forward, may your retirement echo the friendships that you've created throughout your career in Newark. May your retirement echo the impact that you had on the success of students. As you close the door to the past, and open the door to the future, please remember, it is because of your high expectations, your collaborative nature and the respect you had for 'every student, every day,' that there are successful people that are who they are because of the impact you have had on their lives."





# Congratulations!

The retirees, their years of service and the positions they currently hold or held when they retired during this school year follow. The names of who didn't attend appear in red.

- Lori Reed, 36 years, Newark High School math teacher
- Kathy Zappia, 31 years, Kelley School special education teacher
- Scott Briggs, 29 years, Newark Middle School math teacher
- **Michael Celent**, 24 years, Newark High School social studies teacher
- Elizabeth DeRue, 24 years, Newark High School teaching assistant
- **Vanessa Stewart**, 24 years, Newark Middle School secretary
- Donna Hamlin, 22 years, Kelley School reading teacher
- Colleen Nassimos, 22 years, Lincoln School teaching assistant
- **Shelley DeVolder**, 21.5 years, NCSD treasurer
- **Mary Ellen Brown**, 21 years, Newark High School teaching assistant
- Jackie Miller, 20 years, Newark High School library media specialist
- **Ann Pollot**, 20 years, Newark Middle School library media specialist
- Susan Moak, 19.5 years, Perkins School physical education teacher
- **Vicki McBride**, 19.5 years, Newark High School teaching assistant
- **Robin Uveges**, 19 years, Newark High School instructional coach
- Donna Holder, 13 years, Kelley School registered nurse (September retirement)
- **Brenda Bigley Vestal**, 2.5 years, Kelley School secretary

Krista Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ed Gnau, Assistant Superintendent of Business, Kerri Levine, NCSD Director of Pupil Services, Newark High School Principal Nick Ganster, Kelley School Principal Jeff Hamelinck, Newark Middle School Principal Teresa Prinzi, Lincoln School Principal John Ginter and Perkins School Principal Rhonda Underhill, thoughtfully reflected on the myriad and invaluable contributions made by the honored guests and some even shared a few humorous recollections.

Others attending the reception included: Board of Education members President Russ Harris, Yvonne MacTaggart, Pat Verdine, Dr. Rich Martin, Scott Verbridge and Shannon Nash, who like Verbridge was elected in May and will join the BOE next month; various other school administrators and staff; and retirees spouses and other family members.

In closing, Hasenauer quipped: "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off," and then shared words from Dr. Seuss' "*Oh, The Places You'll Go*."

*"Congratulations. Today is your day. You're off to great places. You're off and away!*

*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself. Any direction you choose."*