



PHOTO: LINDA M. BARRETT

Dr. Robert Hunt is the newly hired Superintendent of Schools for Barrington 220.

Meet Barrington 220's New Superintendent Dr. Robert Hunt

ON JULY 1, 2021, Dr. Robert Hunt began his role as Barrington 220's new Superintendent of Schools. He comes to Barrington from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where he was recently named "Ohio Superintendent of the Year" by the American Association of School Administrators. Quintessential Barrington talked with Dr. Hunt about what attracted him to Barrington and what he looks forward to as the new Superintendent of Schools.

QB: *Welcome to Barrington! Tell us about your background.*

RH: I was born in Bainbridge, Ohio, which is located just outside Cleveland. When I was seven

years-old my family moved to Tehran, Iran. My father worked for AT&T and he was sent on assignment to help install new infrastructure there. After a couple of years, the country began getting very volatile. They were shutting down power every day at 8 p.m. and I remember hearing gunfire. We left in 1979, just two weeks before the Iran Hostage Crisis began. After brief stints in Thailand and then Hawaii, following my family's evacuation of Tehran, we returned to Ohio. My experience in Iran fostered an appreciation for other cultures and as I grew older, it also put into perspective the great opportunities we have here in America.

From the time we returned to the U.S. until I graduated from high school, I attended the

Kenston School District in Ohio. As a student, I loved writing and literature and participated in many athletics and activities. After graduation I attended the University of Dayton, where I played Division III football for two years, before an injury ended my time on the field.

QB: *What inspired you to work in education?*

RH: Initially, I dreamed of becoming an FBI agent, but after doing a ride-along with a police officer, I decided it wasn't for me. Growing up, whenever I needed someone to help guide me in the right direction, a teacher or a coach always stepped in. I thought, "what better way to make a difference in the lives of young people than to be their teacher?"

I decided to major in elementary education and went on to earn a master's degree in Educational Administration from Ursuline College, then a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Kent State University.


QB: *What was your first job in education?*

RH: I ended up beginning my career by returning to the Kenston School District as a long-term substitute teacher. I then worked as a middle school English teacher, athletic director, and assistant principal in the district. After five years, I moved to the Chagrin Falls School District in Ohio, where I served in a variety of roles including high school assistant principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent. In 2012, I became the Chagrin Falls Schools Superintendent of Schools, a role I served in until moving here to Barrington.

QB: *What attracted you to Barrington 220?*

RH: I was drawn to Barrington 220 both because of its school system and community. I have always believed the best schools have a strong partnership with the parents and community, and they are reflective of the values and expectations of the community. The district has a national reputation of providing innovative and comprehensive educational programs that meet the needs of all students. The community is equally impressive. Since January, I've had the opportunity to visit Barrington on multiple occasions including the Homecoming football game in April and elementary field day. The level of community pride and engagement in our schools is outstanding.

QB: *What are you looking forward to as the new Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools?*

RH: I really look forward to being a part of this community. My wife and I recently bought a house here and our two youngest children will be attending Grove Avenue Elementary. Building relationships is extremely important to me and one of my goals early on is to be very visible in the community and create opportunities to get to know all our stakeholders. Everyone has had a difficult year and we need to work together to heal as a school community. I also look forward to working collaboratively with the staff, Board of Education, and community to plan for Barrington 220's future. The district's current strategic plan, "Vision 2020", was a 10-year plan through 2020. After settling into the school and community, creating a new strategic plan will be a great opportunity for the community to come together so we can continue the tradition of excellence in Barrington 220. 

Dr. Hunt's Favorite Quote

"The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena, who strive valiantly; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spend themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best, know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." –Theodore Roosevelt

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