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207 Board selects Paula Besler to fill vacancy

The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education has selected Paula Meyer Besler, the Director of Community and Health Relations for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, to replace long-time District 207 Board member Donna Pellar, who vacated her seat on the Board after nearly 19 years of service due to relocation from Park Ridge out of the District 207 boundaries. Besler will be sworn in prior to the May 5 regular board meeting.

The District 207 Board selected Besler, a Park Ridge resident, in a 5-0 vote Sunday afternoon after interviewing nine candidates from within the District 207 boundaries. After graduating from Maine South High School, Besler graduated cum laude from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in business administration in 1986 and earned a law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1989. She has completed coursework for an LL.M in Family and Child law at Loyola and is scheduled to complete a certificate in Diversity Management in Health Care from Georgetown University and the American Hospital Association Institute of Diversity this July. She has extensive community experience throughout the District 207 community in providing health care outreach to a variety of diverse populations; in addition, she has two students at Maine South as well as a younger child in District 64. Her oldest child graduated from Maine South.

"We had nine outstanding candidates from which to choose," said District 207 Board President Margaret McGrath. "Each candidate brought community involvement, a real passion for the quality of our high schools, as well as commitment to serve students well while being good financial stewards for the community. Paula has worked closely with our schools in her capacity at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, helping us bring programs like cardiac screening to our schools, and working with both student internship programs and providing support for the School-based Health Center. We welcome her to the District 207 Board of Education."