



Far left: Superintendent Von Mansfield speaks at a commencement ceremony; Left: Mansfield takes a turn at directing the H-F symphonic band; center: Attending H-F prom was part of his duties; right: Mansfield congratulates students during an awards ceremony.

"You should probably ask my wife, Tina," he said, as he reflected on how much she and their children – Vonzell, Lauren and Elyse – sacrificed for his job. He says he can't thank them enough. People see him throughout the school day and at meetings, but there's so much more that happens behind the scenes.

"I can't tell you how many times we've met on a Saturday afternoon, a Sunday morning into Sunday evening making sure students came back to a setting that's as normal as appropriate given the circumstances that happened over the weekend."

Like the phone call he got one night about the bio pond flooding.

"It rained and rained and rained and all of a sudden water's spilling into G building. We have tunnels under school (that there are probably many legends

about) but those tunnels began to flood, and they access the boilers and the generators. That is not a good thing. So those are all the things mechanically that go on behind the scenes that are far from the learning happening," he said.

Some decisions are really tough, and he acknowledges they're hard to make and everybody isn't always happy.

"There are no problems, there are only solutions because no matter what the problem is you may not like the solution – hopefully you do – but there will always be a solution," he said.

### The future

As superintendent, Mansfield has received numerous honors. Most recently, he was named the 2022 Illinois Association of Superintendents Association

Superintendent of Distinction, and he was a two-time winner of the Those Who Excel Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. He may take his expertise into a college classroom or work as a consultant.

He has served as a College Board trustee and a member of the College Board Executive Committee and the College Board Superintendents' Advisory Panel. He plans on continuing his service as vice chair of the College Board's Oak Circle for former trustees.

"We meet quarterly. I found that to be rewarding work as we still impact a lot of people at a lot of different levels," he said.

Mansfield, now in his early 60s, considers himself a life-long learner. He expects to challenge himself in whatever his next pursuit is "and continue to do those things that make me happy."

"All of us — whether we are students, teachers, staff, administrators, board or community members, or other stakeholders — have benefitted from Dr. Mansfield's wisdom, his 30+ years experience as an educator, his mastery of school finance, his fierce advocacy for principles of diversity, inclusion and equity, and for me personally, his mentorship and friendship. He has captained H-F through many a stormy sea and has left H-F much better off than he found it. More than that, he has positioned us for generations of future success, and for that, we all can be grateful."

Gerald Pauling  
School board president

"One of Dr. Mansfield's many assets is the ability to find and cultivate talent. I was fortunate enough to have been recruited by him in 2004 to lead H-F's newly formed reading program. Dr. Mansfield encouraged me to continue my graduate studies...I went on to ultimately join the administrative team as director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. My personal experience is just one of many H-F staff members who have benefitted from Dr. Mansfield's mentorship over the years."

Dr. Nancy Spaniak  
Retired administrator

"All in all, he instilled in me to never be complacent or satisfied with the status quo; instead, stressed the importance to always keep learning and growing professionally and personally."

Dr. Lawrence Cook  
D223 chief school business officer

"Dr. Mansfield has been a wonderful leader, mentor, and friend, who will certainly leave a lasting impact on the H-F community, and he will truly be missed by everyone. I am confident that he has helped pave the way for a better future for so many students that he has touched throughout his career."

Craig Fantin  
H-F associate principal

"During my time as board president he and I navigated some choppy waters and I always appreciated his calm, professional demeanor both in public and during our many one-on-one conversations. He has made a difference in our students lives and his legacy will long be remembered."

Steve Anderson  
School board member and past president

When I think of Dr. Mansfield and our 20-plus years at H-F, I think of quality, character and commitment. He was low-keyed, mentally organized and had a positive attitude and was a champion of everything H-F. He has been honored not just for what he has done, but for who he is in our H-F community. He is worthy of celebration and appreciation and as a former board member and president it has been a privilege and a pleasure to know and work with Dr. Mansfield."

Jody Scariano  
Former school board member and past president

Dr. Mansfield is undoubtedly the most outstanding professional educator I have ever had the privilege of working with. Von consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership to the professionals he managed and was unwavering in his commitment to upholding the high moral and ethical standards required by the H-F community. He will be missed.

Rick Lites  
Former school board member and past president