

## Principals

**Ms. Nellie S. King**  
**(?-1912-?)**

Recorded as principal on the 1911-1912 student souvenir card. She was the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the Bethany school building per page 9 of the Nevis Classmate 1981.

**Mr. R. Kirkconel**  
**(?-1917-?)**

He may have been both principal and superintendent – he was listed as superintendent page 9 of the Nevis Classmate

**Mr. Rudolph Malvin Fjelstad**  
**Years??**

Mr. Fjelstad was born February 17, 1886 in Montevideo, Minnesota. He graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1908. In 1911, he graduated from Luther Theological Seminary. He served congregations in Minneapolis, Emmons, and Thief River Falls, Minnesota and Stoughton, Wisconsin. He served on the board of directors of Concordia College, Moorhead. He moved to Northfield, Minnesota in 1951.

Mr. Fjelstad died March 16, 1955 in Northfield, Minnesota

**Ms. Dahl**  
**1922-1923**

**August 5, 1922**      Hired as principal for \$1,500 per year for nine months

**Mr. Walter M. Schold**  
**1923-1925**

In 1917 Mr. Schold registered in North Branch as a student through Isanti County, Minnesota for World War I. In 1930, he was living as a boarder in Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota per census. He was born August 21, 1896 Wheaton, Minnesota and living in Wilmette, Illinois per World War II draft registration card. He was working for the Works Projects Administration USA (WPA).

- October 6, 1923** Walter M. Schold was hired as principal for \$1,500 per year for nine months
- May 5, 1924** Rehired Mr. Walter Schold for the 1924-1925 school year for \$166.66 per month

**Mr. R. J. Reynolds**  
**1925-1926**

- September 5, 1925** Hired R. J. Reynolds as principal for a salary of \$1400 per year for nine months

**Mr. Julian Sletten**  
**1926-1928**

There was a Julian O. Sletten born May 12, 1903 and died October 6, 1968 in Hennepin County, MN. There was also a J. Sletten born July 11, 1896 and died July 1978 in Northfield, Rice County, MN.

- July 26, 1926** J. Sletten hired for principal at \$150 per month

**Mr. Chester M. Olson**  
**1928-1929**

- August 4, 1928** Chester M. Olson hired for principal at \$150 per month for nine months

**Mrs. Katharine Olds Horton**  
**1929-1934**

Mrs. Horton was born May 26, 1877 in Sioux Agency Township, Minnesota. Mrs. Horton graduated from Granite Falls High School and Carleton College. Mrs. Horton taught English at Nevis Public School prior to becoming the principal in the fall of 1929. She married James H. Horton at Walker on May 31, 1924. She served as principal of Nevis School for five years.

She also served as probate court clerk and operated the Mode Dress Shop in Granite Falls before her retirement.

She passed away on February 8, 1964 in Granite Falls, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota.

**February 2, 1929** Mrs. Horton was hired at \$145 per month  
**February 1, 1930** Mrs. K.O. Horton rehired as principal for \$145 per month



**Mr. Carl Sylvester Ingebrigtsen  
1935-1935**

Mr. Ingebrigtsen grew up on the prairies of North Dakota. His father was a “prairie preacher” so they moved a lot, resulting in his mother home schooling him. He passed the North Dakota State Board exams and entered Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota at the age of 15. He played football and hockey while in college. He graduated in 1929 (contact Concordia to determine name of degree). He received his Master of Arts Degree in ?? from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Mr. Ingebrigtsen started teaching math and science in Nevis in the fall of 1929 at the age of 19. He coached girls’ basketball in the 1930s. In the fall of 1935, he accepted the position of Nevis principal. Four months later, he was offered the superintendent position for the remainder of the school year. He remained in that position for the next ten years.

While at Nevis, Mr. Ingebrigtsen helped produce the first annual in 1938. In the fall of 1936 the Nevis School mascot was the Tiger Muskies. Then, in the fall of 1937, it was changed to the Pirates. Finally, in the fall of 1938, the Nevis School mascot was changed to what it is today, the Tigers. In 1944, the first authorized dance was held at the school during the spring junior and senior banquet.

Mr. Ingebrigtsen was superintendent at Nevis during World War II. During this time, he was the only man in the school system. The pine trees that grow around the school were planted by Mr. Ingebrigtsen and the Nevis School boys as a wind break because the school was built in a wide open field.

Mr. Ingebrigtsen left Nevis in 1945 to serve as superintendent in Westbrook, Minnesota. In 1962, he went to Frazee, Minnesota where he was superintendent until he retired in 1976. During the 1960s, Mr. Ingebrigtsen was Chairman of the State High School League Board of Control. He passed away March 6, 1995 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Nevis, Minnesota.

**March 9, 1935** Promoted Carl Ingebrigtsen from math teacher to principal for the 1935-1936 school year at a salary of \$125 per month

**December 16, 1935** Carl Ingebrigtsen was promoted to fill the position of superintendent until June 1



**Ms. Amy Geneva (Mattson) Jacobson  
1936-1938**

Mrs. Jacobson was born March 4, 1912 in Nome, North Dakota. She graduated from Nome High School in 1929. She then attended North Dakota Agriculture College (North Dakota State University) Fargo, North Dakota and later graduated from Moorhead State Teachers College (Minnesota State University, Moorhead, Minnesota) in 1933 with a degree in physical education and social studies. Her father was a meat cutter and they lived in Fargo, North Dakota. She attended Moorhead State for \$5 per credit so the family could afford the tuition.

After graduating from Moorhead State Teacher's College, Mrs. Jacobson taught school in Pingree, North Dakota. She was paid \$50 per month. Her duties included walking to school, starting the fire, and teaching grades 1-8. She accepted the position and felt fortunate to have a job as there were few jobs due to the Great Depression.

Mrs. Jacobson then accepted the history and physical education teaching position at Nevis Public School. She earned her Masters degree in **administration from ?? in ??**. Mrs. Jacobson, accepted the principal position at Nevis Public School in January 1936. She resigned from Nevis School after being married to Ernest Norvall Jacobson (a 1935 Nevis Public School graduate) in 1938. She returned to teaching at Nevis School during World War II. She then left teaching entirely as she wanted to spend more time with her family. Her two children Robert (1962) and Vicki (1965) were Nevis Public School graduates. Vicki married Bruce Oberland who was also a 1965 Nevis Public School graduate.

Mrs. Jacobson died on December 8, 1985 in Nevis, Minnesota. Her interment is in Lakeview Cemetery, Nevis, Minnesota.

**January 6, 1936** Miss Amy Mattson was appointed principal for the remainder of the school year after Carl Ingebriktson took over as superintendent  
**March 5, 1938** Rehired Amy Mattson for \$125 per month for the 1938-1939 school year



**Ms. Leona Larsen-Hanson  
1938-1940**

Mrs. Larsen first started teaching in Nevis School in the fall of 1935. She had graduated from Concordia Teachers College in Moorhead, Minnesota in the spring of 1935 with a major in history and minor in English. It was during the Great Depression and only about 10% of the students got a job, she felt very fortunate.

Superintendent Reishus, who hired her, retired in the spring of 1936. At that time, he told Ms. Larsen that she was to take over his German II class. She had three years of German before so she told him she didn't know enough. But, he said not to worry as two boys would help her as they spoke German at home.

She left Nevis in the spring of 1940 when she got married and moved to California. When she returned to teach in 1945-1946, she taught world history, PE, health; basically anything that was needed as no credentials were needed during the war years. In 1945-1946 there was an epidemic of head lice. The county nurse was called in and there were not many kids during that week of school. During this time she lived with her parents as her husband was overseas.

Ms. Larsen left Nevis School in 1946 to raise her family. In 1954, she returned to teach music for half days. In 1959 she started teaching full time English where she taught 6 classes per day plus supervised two study halls. In 1968, she went with her husband to Grand Marais, Minnesota, as he had a job in the state park. She worked for several years in the school teaching music and English. She returned to Park Rapids in 1979 to retire. During her teaching at Nevis, she worked for four superintendents: S. George Reishus hired her, Carl Ingebrigtsen, Herb Wolff, and Louis Schroeder.

Mrs. Larsen is currently living in Park Rapids, Minnesota.

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>July 2, 1938</b> | Ms. Larsen was promoted from teaching to principal at a salary of \$125 per month |
| <b>May 4, 1940</b>  | Ms. Larsen's resignation accepted at the school board meeting                     |



**Mr. Gregor August Haseley  
1940-1942**

Mr. Haseley was born May 14, 1911 in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. He attended high school at St. Paul Luther Academy. After graduating, he attended St. Paul Luther Junior College for two years.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Concordia College, Moorhead. He earned his Masters of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota and Macallister College.

Mr. Haseley gave up playing professional baseball for the St. Paul Saints, where he was a pitcher, to become a teacher as he could make more money teaching than playing baseball.

His favorite quote was “No one is wise enough for himself, but we have to support one another, help, instruct and admonish one another” by Thomas Kempis.

Mr. Haseley started his career in education at Nevis Public School. He was hired as a teacher of PE, social studies, and business in 1938. He also coached boys’ basketball for two years. His first year of coaching, the team got new uniforms and were now called the Nevis Tigers. After two years, the school board offered him the position as principal.

Mr. Haseley left Nevis School in the spring of 1942 after a total of four years. He then went to Chisago City where he served as principal until 1947. Mr. Haseley then accepted a position at St. Paul Park where he served as teacher and principal until 1973 when he was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Director of Secondary Education for School District 833. He served in this position for five years, until his retirement in 1978.

Mr. Haseley passed away November 20, 1986 in Washington County, Minnesota. His interment is in Lake Elmo Cemetery, Lake Elmo, Minnesota. A friend wrote about him: He is remembered by his colleagues for being sensitive to student needs and having a big heart. He strived to set an example and be an inspiration to young people so they would stay in school and achieve their dreams. He was a charter member of the St. Paul Park Lions Club. He helped get lights on the football field in St. Paul Park and started the first hockey club for St. Paul Park.

**July 6, 1940**

Mr. Haseley was offered the principal’s position at \$115 per month and then the school board hired a teacher that could take care of the coaching to replace him

**March 23, 1942**

Mr. Haseley was given \$5 per month raise

**June 30, 1942**

Mr. Haseley’s resignation was accepted at the school board meeting

**Mrs. Margaret E. Harrison**  
**1942-1946**

**August 2, 1943** Mrs. Harrison offered principal's contract at a salary of \$170 per month  
**March 11, 1944** Contract offered for \$185 per month for principal  
**March 28, 1946** Mrs. Harrison's resignation was accepted

Margaret E. Larson on 1943 Diploma – Mrs. Harrison in the school board minutes of 1943



**Mr. Lynn Vernon Sycks  
1946-1947**

Mr. Sycks graduated from Backus High School, Backus, Minnesota in 1933. He then attended Normal Training in Pine River for one year to be a country school teacher. In the fall of 1934, he accepted a position as a country school teacher in a small town not far from Fergus Falls for one year.

Mr. Sycks attended St. Cloud Teachers College (St. Cloud State University), St. Cloud, Minnesota where he earned his teaching degree in 1940. While in college he played baseball and during his senior year, he coached the college baseball team. After

graduating, he taught math and coached in Backus, Minnesota for two years.

He then joined the United States Navy where he was a lieutenant in the Pacific Ocean, working as a navigator on cargo ships. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1945, Mr. Sycks returned to teaching at Backus, Minnesota for one year.

In the fall of 1946, he accepted the principal's position at Nevis Public School. In addition to being principal, he taught math, coached basketball and 6-man football. In the spring of 1947, he resigned from Nevis Public School to accept a teaching position at Akeley High School. There, he met his wife Arlene, a music teacher. They taught in Akeley until 1953 when they moved to Walker, Minnesota and accepted teaching positions at Walker High School. During the summer of 1953, Mr. Sycks also finished his Masters Degree at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Sycks both retired from teaching at Walker High School in 1973.

In 1997, they moved into an independent living area in Brainerd where they still lived in 2010. In 2008, Mr. Sycks was recognized for his outstanding coaching accomplishments during Minnesota's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**April 11, 1946**

Mr. Sycks was offered a contract as principal and coach for the next school year at \$2,700 per year

**April 29, 1947**

Principal Sycks' salary of \$2,800 per year for principal and coach, he did not serve as principal the following year, there was no record of information in the school board minutes regarding his resignation or not accepting his contract.



**Miss Elsa Emma Moos  
1947-1949**

Ms. Moos was born April 17, 1916 in Anoka County, Minnesota. She earned her ?? degree in biology from College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota (per 1948 annual).

Ms. Moos married James Massey on January 28, 1956 Sherburne County, Minnesota.

Ms. Moos (Elsa M. Massey) died May 7, 1992 in Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota.

**March 15, 1949** Miss Moos was offered a salary of \$3,150 per year



**Mr. Merten W. Andresen  
1949-1953**

**September 6, 1949** Mr. Andresen's contract was approved at regular school board meeting

**March 20, 1951** Rehired Mr. Andresen as principal with a raise of \$275 to \$3275 per year

**March 17, 1952** Principal salary increased to \$3600 per year

**March 16, 1953** Principal salary increased to \$4075 per year

**April 16, 1953** Mr. Andresen's resignation was accepted at the school board meeting

**1953 Report** The Nevis high school is organized on a six-year basis. The enrollment in 1953 was 126 students (with 66 boys and 60 girls). The high school principal taught five classes daily and had one period of library duty. This left the principal with one period for high school administration and supervision. In addition to the two administrators there were six high school teachers. The report recommended an elementary principal and reducing the teaching load of the high school principal while hiring a librarian. Secretarial help for the two administrators was provided by students on a part-time basis.



**Mr. Herbert Franz Wolff  
1953-1961**

Mr. Wolff graduated from Forbes High School, Forbes, North Dakota in 1938. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in business education from Ellendale State Teachers College, Ellendale, North Dakota in 1949. He received his Master of Science Degree in education from University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1961.

Mr. Wolff started teaching at Nevis Public School in 1949. In 1953, he became the principal. In 1961, he was offered the superintendent contract.

In 1967, Mr. Wolff moved to Clarissa, Minnesota where he served as superintendent until he retired in 1981. He then moved back to Nevis where he served as mayor from 1983 until his death in 1989. His interment is at Lakeview Cemetery in Nevis, Minnesota. With full military honors at his funeral, Mr. Wolff's family received a flag that was draped over his coffin. That flag was donated to Nevis School and still hangs in the Tiger Arena today.

**June 16, 1953**

Herb Wolff approved as principal and commercial teacher at  
A salary of \$4,075 per year

**March 9, 1954**

Mr. Wolff's new contract for \$4,175 per year as principal

**February 9, 1959**

Principal Herbert Wolff was paid \$5,150 per year for 1959-1960

**April 29, 1959**

Herbert Wolff resigned as principal and then rehired in 1959-1960  
at \$5,550 per year



**Mr. Earl Waldron Hedman  
1961-1964**

Mr. Hedman was born October 17, 1920, in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. His family moved to Nevis when he was age 6. He graduated from Nevis Public School in 1939. He earned his Bachelors Degree from Bemidji State University in (area) (year). He earned his Masters Degree from University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota in (area) (year).

Mr. Hedman served in the United States Army in the European-African Middle East Theater (year). Mr. Hedman served as the principal of Nevis Public School for three years. He then moved to Gonvick, Minnesota where he served as superintendent (years). He then moved to New Richland in (year) where he served as superintendent of New Richland Schools until he retired in (year).

Mr. Hedman died January 11, 1995, in New Richland, Minnesota. His interment is in St. Olaf Cemetery, New Richland, Minnesota.

- August 4, 1961** Mr. Earl Hedman was approved as the new principal at \$5,600 per year
- February 12, 1963** Mr. Earl Hedman's principal contract for 1963-1964 at \$6,600 per year was approved at the school board meeting

**Resignation??**

**Mr. Harold Norman Wood**  
**1964-1966**



Mr. Wood graduated from New York Mills High School, New York Mills, Minnesota in 1937. He earned his Bachelors Degree from Denver University, Denver, Colorado. He served in the United States Army from 1943-1946 and was stationed at Lory Air Force Base, Colorado.

After his honorable discharge from the army, he taught courses in business, sales, and economics at Wichita High School North, Wichita, Kansas. While teaching, he attended Municipal University of Wichita (Wichita State University) Wichita, Kansas where he earned his Masters Degree.

He then accepted the principal position at Nevis where he worked two years. In the fall of 1966, he became superintendent at New York Mills, Minnesota, where he worked until retiring in 1981.

Mr. Wood died September 24, 1993 and is interred in New York Mills, Minnesota.

**July 9, 1964** Mr. Harold Wood was offered a contract for high school principal at \$6,500 per year

**February 15, 1966** Mr. Harold Wood renewed his principal contract at \$7,600 per year for 1965-1966

**Resignation??**



**Mr. Clarence Clinton Gordon  
1966-1967**

Mr. Gordon was a 1965 graduate of Omaha University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in educational psychology with a minor in English and business. He was hired as high school principal for the 1966-1967 school year. He also taught consumer math and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math. He was the Student Council advisor.

Prior to arriving in Nevis, Mr. Gordon was a substitute teacher in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1964-1965 and Park Rapids, Minnesota from 1965-1966.

**November 14, 1966** Offered high school principal contract to Mr. Gordon for the remainder of the school year at a salary of \$5,400

**Resignation??**



**Mrs. Opal C. Weiers  
1967-1974**

Opal Weiers was born July 7, 1917 in Halstad, Minnesota. She graduated from Osseo High School, Osseo, Minnesota in 1934. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Saint Cloud State University.

She taught school in Wahkon and McGrath, Minnesota and Michigan before moving to Nevis, Minnesota where she taught fourth grade from 1955 until her retirement in 1979. In her obituary, Opal was quoted as saying, "I had wonderful students in all my schools."

Mrs. Weiers died on February 26, 2011 in Onamia, Minnesota.

**Mr. George Keith Sycks**  
**1966 and 1967**

George Keith “Lefty” Sycks was born December 4, 1917, to Lafayette and Nora (Milender) Sycks in Backus, Minnesota. After graduating from Backus High School in 1935, he spent the next few years working at various jobs, including the Civilian Conservation Corp, railroad, logging camps and lumber yards.

In 1939, he attended St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota where he played baseball and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in education. Immediately upon graduating from St. Cloud State University in 1943, he entered the United States Naval Officer Training Program at Great Lakes and received his commission as an ensign. He saw active duty in World War II on D-Day, June 6, 1944, where he commanded an LCT (landing craft tank – an amphibious assault ship for landing tanks on the beach) at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.

On September 7, 1945, he married Lavilla Cordes of Henning, in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, George returned to civilian life and started a career in education that was to span 35 years, earning his Masters Degree and working in various capacities as teacher, coach, principal, and guidance counselor.

Mr. Sycks died at the age of 89, in Park Rapids, Minnesota, on May 17, 2007. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Backus, Minnesota.

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>February 13, 1967</b> | Mr. George Sycks was offered a high school principal contract                               |
| <b>May 7, 1967</b>       | The school board received a letter of resignation for George Sycks (no action until August) |
| <b>August 7, 1967</b>    | Accepted resignation of George Sycks from high school principal position                    |



**Mr. Edward Roll Brekke  
1967-1971**

Mr. Brekke graduated from Fargo High School, Fargo, North Dakota in 1934. He attended North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1942 with a major in mathematics and a minor in science. He graduated with a Master of Science Degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1953.

Mr. Brekke was a physics instructor in the Army Air Forces Program at Moorhead State Teachers College, Moorhead, Minnesota for one year in 1943-1944. He was then principal at Barnesville High School, Barnesville, Minnesota from 1944-1947. He taught band and science in Minto High School, Minto, North Dakota for one year in 1950-1951. For one year he was the high school principal in Deer River, Minnesota from 1953-1954.

**Ending??**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>January 29, 1968</b> | Mr. Brekke was offered high school principal position for 1968-1969 at \$8,100 per year                   |
| <b>March 15, 1968</b>   | Principal salary for the 1968-1969 school year was offered at \$8,500 per year                            |
| <b>January 20, 1969</b> | Mr. Brekke's principal contract for \$9,500 per year for 1969-1970 was signed                             |
| <b>April 13, 1970</b>   | Mr. Brekke was offered a contract for \$10,300 per year for the 1970-1971 school year                     |
| <b>April 12, 1971</b>   | Mr. Brekke's contract was approved for \$10,700 per year  |
| <b>August 9, 1971</b>   | Mr. Brekke's resignation from the high school principal position was accepted at the school board meeting |



**Mr. James Gregory Belden  
1971-1972**

Mr. Belden was born December 13, 1934 St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from St. Paul High School St. Paul, Minnesota in 1952. After graduation he went to college at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War Conflict 1956-1958. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Belden finished his Bachelors Degree at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota in the spring of 1959 in mathematics and science.

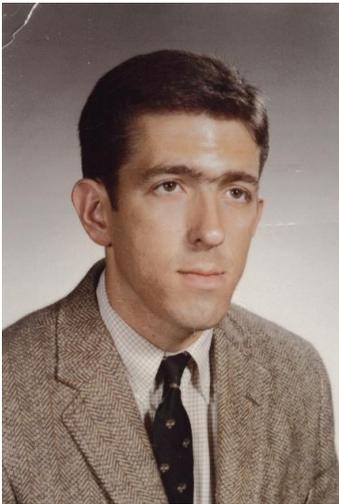
He started teaching that fall in Mabel, Minnesota. He then taught in Silver Lake, Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota to work on his Masters Degree.

He then taught in Hanska, Minnesota and Badger, Minnesota. After that he taught in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. He then taught in Superior, Wisconsin while finishing his specialists degree from Superior State University (the University of Wisconsin, Superior). In 1971, he accepted the principal's position at Nevis, Minnesota. The following year he was appointed the superintendent. He served as superintendent in Nevis 1972-1974. He then moved to Sioux Valley, Minnesota where he taught for one year before moving to St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1974 and retiring from Pierz, Minnesota after teaching for two years.

Mr. Belden died January 28, 1996 in Saint Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**September 24, 1971** Contract offered to Mr. Belden as high school principal and teacher at a salary of \$10,700 per year.

**Fall 1972** Mr. Belden was offered a full-time contract as superintendent



**Dr. Robert David Mitchell  
1972-1973**

Dr. Mitchell earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in science education from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa in 1963 with a major in biology and minor in chemistry. He earned his Master of Science degree in science education from the University of Iowa in 1969. He earned his doctorate in science education in 1973 from the University of Iowa

Dr. Mitchell was chemistry and biology teacher at Urbana High School, Urbana, Iowa, for one year in 1963-1964. From 1964-1966 he was the graduate assistant in the zoology department at the University of Iowa. He was the chemistry and physics teacher for Lowden High School in Lowden, Iowa from 1966-1968. Dr. Mitchell taught chemistry and physics for Regis High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1968-1969. From 1969-1970 he served as the part-time math and science teacher at St. Patrick Junior High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. From 1970-1971 he was an instructor at the University of Iowa, and he was a biology instructor at Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa from 1971-1972. That fall he accepted the principal's position at Nevis Public School. He left Nevis the following spring.

He went???

**November 12, 1972** Dr. Mitchell applied for the principal position at Nevis. There was not a principal for the start of the school year. Mr. Belden, superintendent, acted as both superintendent and principal.

**January 15, 1973** Dr. Mitchell was hired as high school principal and counselor at a salary of \$7,078.60 plus insurance starting January 1, 1973 until the end of the school year, plus one week at the end of the year.

**July 30, 1973** Dr. Mitchell presented his letter of resignation.



**Mr. Edward Hegbom Ness  
1973-1974 and 1976-1979**

Mr. Ness attended school in Oslo, Norway for grades one through three. He graduated from Denfeld High School in Duluth, Minnesota in 1935. He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps for two years. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1941 with majors in Social Studies and Norwegian and a minor in English. The requirement at the time was that any student with a parent of Norwegian background must take at least one year of Norwegian language. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1942. He served in Hawaii and the European

Theatre before being honorably discharged in 1945. He earned his Master of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1953.

Mr. Ness began his teaching career in 1947 in Rush City, Minnesota where he taught history. Mr. Ness taught school for twelve years in various communities. He served as principal for Spring Grove High School, Spring Grove, Minnesota from 1958-1961. He served as superintendent at Grey Eagle, Minnesota 1961-1963. Mr. Ness then served as high school principal in Grand Rapids (Bigfork), Minnesota from 1964-1968. For the next four years, he served as superintendent in Franklin, Minnesota. Finally, he served as principal and taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade English in Goodridge, Minnesota for one year, 1972-1973, prior to becoming principal in Nevis High School in the fall of 1973.

Mr. Ness served as Nevis principal 1973-1974 and taught English and world history. He was superintendent from 1974-1976; then principal from 1976-1977. During the 1977-1978 school year he served as principal and superintendent. Finally, he served as high school principal from 1978-1979 when he also taught American history and was Student Council advisor. In 1979, he retired from education after a thirty-two year career. Mr. Ness also served as Nevis Community Education Director for the 1982-1983 school year.

Mr. Ness passed away August 27, 2001. His interment is in Our Saviors Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ham Lake, Minnesota.

- September 10, 1973** Mr. Ness was offered a principal contract with a salary of \$11,500
- July 20, 1976** Mr. Ness was hired as high school principal starting August 18, 1976 at a salary of \$15,400 plus \$600 for insurance. His work day was from 7:45-4:00, he was to be the student counselor, teach one class if the board deemed necessary, work two weeks before school started and two weeks after school was out in the spring and redo the class schedule for 1976-1977.
- July 10, 1978** Salary for the 1978-1979 school year was \$18,000, plus \$774 for insurance. He taught an American history class at no extra salary.
- February 12, 1979** School board accepted Mr. Ness' resignation as principal



**Mr. William Arnold Maki  
1974-1979**

Mr. Maki earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in elementary education with a physical education minor from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Minnesota in 1969. He earned his Master of Science Degree in elementary education from Bemidji State College (Bemidji State University), Bemidji, Minnesota in 1974.

Mr. Maki started his teaching career in Paynesville, Minnesota in 1969 as an elementary teacher. He began teaching in Nevis in the fall of 1972. During his tenure at Nevis, Mr. Maki taught in the elementary classroom, Title I, and served as elementary principal. After his retirement from

teaching, Mr. Maki continued his employment with Nevis School District as a bus driver until his retirement from education in May 2010.

- August 12, 1974**      Hired as ½ time elementary principal and ½ time elementary teacher
- March 10, 1975**      Recorded as part-time elementary principal
- September 22, 1975**      Mr. Maki’s principal salary increased from \$400 to \$600 per year. For this he will work one week before and one week after the regular school year, in addition to his regular duties as principal
- May 18, 1976**      Increased the principal’s salary by \$200. He is to work one week before the opening of school and one week after the close of school
- July 12, 1976**      Salary increased by \$750 to \$1,350 for the part time elementary principal position
- December 12, 1977**      Salary increased \$250 per year to \$1,600, plus his elementary teaching salary
- March 13, 1978**      School board rehired for the 1978-1979 school year
- April 24, 1978**      A substitute teacher was hired for Mr. Maki to allow him more time to help with the high school principal position
- August 14, 1978**      Salary was increased \$250 for year, bring his elementary principal salary to \$1,850
- January 22, 1979**      Accepted Mr. Maki’s resignation as elementary principal at the end of the 1978-1979 school year, he returned to teaching full time



**Mr. Morris James Bennett  
1974-1976**

Mr. Bennett graduated from Glenwood High School, Glenwood, Minnesota in 1938. He served in the United States Army during World War II (years). He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Cloud State College (St. Cloud State University), St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1956 with a major in mathematics. He received his Master of Science Degree in educational administration in 1974 from Mankato State College (Minnesota State University, Mankota), Mankato, Minnesota.

Mr. Bennett taught mathematics in Montevideo High School, Montevideo, Minnesota for 14 years 1957-1971 prior to coming to Nevis. He then served as principal for two years at Nevis Public School. After leaving Nevis, he served as principal at Belview School until his retirement in 1985.

Mr. Bennett died on Wednesday, December 23, 1992 at Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar, Minnesota.

- August 29, 1974** Mr. Bennett was offered a contract for high school principal and math teacher at a salary of \$13,000 for the year
- July 7, 1975** Mr. Bennett was offered a contract for \$13,250
- September 22, 1975** Mr. Bennett was offered a raise of \$1,000 to \$14,000 with the stipulation he work two weeks after the close of school and before the opening of school, in addition to his regular duties
- July 20, 1976** Resignation from principal position was accepted at a special board meeting



**Mr. Martin Jon Avelsgaard  
1979-1981**

Mr. Avelsgaard grew up on a farm in Lac qui Parle County and graduated from Appleton High School, Appleton, Minnesota in 1960. He served in the United States Air Force for four years. In 1969, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota, with a major in comprehensive social studies with a geography emphasis. He earned his Master of Education degree in secondary administration from

the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington in 1975. In 1979, he earned his Sixth Year (Specialists Degree) in general administration from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Mr. Avelsgaard began his career in teaching social studies in 1969 and became a high school principal in 1976. He served as secondary principal and assistant elementary principal of Nevis from 1979-1981. After his resignation from Nevis Public School, Mr. Avelsgaard accepted an administrative position at the Rabat American School in Rabat, Morocco. After serving as a principal at the Rabat American School, Rabat, Morocco, in 1982 he became the superintendent of schools in Villard, Minnesota. He went on to become superintendent at Toledo, Washington, Ellendale and Pequot Lakes, Minnesota. His last position as superintendent of schools was serving the Lake Superior School District, Two Harbors, Minnesota for nine years. In 2003 he retired. Retirement did not provide enough adventure or purpose as Mr. Avelsgaard accepted the Directorship of Sana'a International School in Sana'a, Yemen in 2010.

- February 24, 1979** Mr. Avelsgaard applied for the principal's position at Nevis High School
- May 15, 1979** Hired Martin J. Avelsgaard as Secondary Principal and Assistant Elementary Principal at a salary of \$20,000 plus health insurance and MASSP dues
- March 10, 1980** Principal Avelsgaard was offered a contract for the next year
- July 11, 1980** A salary increase of \$2,500 was given to raise his salary to \$22,500 per year
- March 23, 1981** Mr. Avelsgaard was denied a two-year leave of absence from his position. He was planning to teach in an American School in Rabat, Morocco during the time.
- April 27, 1981** Mr. Avelsgaard resigned at the April school board meeting, effective at the end of the 1981 school year. The board offered him a contract for \$28,000 including coaching football to try and keep him for the 1981-1982 school year. However, he had accepted an overseas administrative position at Rabat American School in Rabat, Morocco.



**Mr. Victor Leander Larson  
1981-1982**

Mr. Larson graduated from Washington High School, Los Angeles, California in 1943. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in education at Pepperdine College, Los Angeles, California with a major in physical education and minor in social studies in 1950. He earned a Master of Science Degree in education administration from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California in 1957.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Larson served in the United States Naval Air Service from 1943-1946. From 1946-1965 Mr. Larson worked for the City of Los Angeles, California Recreation and Parks Department as swimming pool manager and later senior aquatics director. He was the United States Olympic Committee and National AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) water polo chairman from 1965-1969. At the same time, Mr. Larson spent 23 years, from 1950-1973, in the Montebello, California school system where he was athletic director, PE, health, and drivers education teacher, and coach for swimming, water polo, basketball, football, baseball, and track.

In 1973 Mr. Larson moved to Argyle, Minnesota where he was principal 1974-1981. In the summer of 1981, Mr. Larson accepted the principal position at Nevis School.

Mr. Larson died August 25, 1984, Los Angeles, California.

**June 29, 1981**

Mr. Larsen was hired as principal of Nevis School

**November 1981**

His wife, Jean Larson, died at the age of 64 with interment at Lakeview Cemetery, Nevis, Minnesota

**May 18, 1982**

Mr. Larsen's resignation was accepted, effective June 10, 1982 and he was approved for early retirement



**Mr. Richard Dean Magaard  
1982-1989**

Mr. Magaard graduated from Willmar High School, Willmar, Minnesota in 1962. He enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota in 1971 with a major in English-language arts. He earned his Master of Science degree in English from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1978. He earned his sixth year degree in educational administration from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Mr. Magaard taught English at Ogilvie, Minnesota from 1971-1973. He then taught English at Alexandria High School, Alexandria, Minnesota 1973-1982. He served as high school principal in Nevis from 1982-1989 when he was offered a superintendent contract.

Mr. Magaard served as superintendent for fourteen years before retiring. This was the longest tenure of any superintendent of Nevis. During his tenure, there were several changes. The school was awarded a grant for cell phones, where every teacher was given a cell phone, allowing immediate communication. The referendum was passed and the construction finished for the Tiger Arena addition. During this time, the school grew from a single section to a two section school.

- June 1982** Mr. Magaard applied for the principal position at Nevis Public School
- August 6, 1982** Mr. Magaard was offered the principal's position per year for at a special board meeting
- 1983** The school board offered Mr. Magaard a contract for the 1983-1984 school year at a salary of \$27,700 per year.
- 1984** The school board offered Mr. Magaard a contract for the 1984-85 school year at a salary of \$30,386 per year
- November 28, 1988** Mr. Magaard offered a salary of \$36,077 for the 1987-1988 school year and \$38,148 for the 1988-1989 school year.
- May 16, 1989** Mr. Halbur made the recommendation to hire Mr. Richard Magaard as the new superintendent
- June 26, 1989** The school board offered Mr. Magaard the position of superintendent with a contract of \$47,148 per year for the 1989-1990 school year.



**Mrs. Carol Ione Collins  
1989-2002**

Mrs. Collins graduated from Park Rapids High School, Park Rapids, Minnesota in 1958. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota in 1974. She earned her certification in Learning Disabilities in 1976. In 1982, she earned her Master of Science Degree in counseling from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota. Her sixth year degree in educational administration was earned in 1988 from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mrs. Collins taught special education at Nevis Public School from 1974-1981. She then became the high school counselor and coordinator of work experience for disadvantaged and handicapped children from 1981-1989 when she was hired as the K-12 principal. Mrs. Collins retired as principal of Nevis in 2002. She was offered a contract to return part-time as counselor and district assessment coordinator from 2002-2009. Mrs. Collins retired from Nevis in December 2009 after 35 years of service. She continued working in education as a substitute teacher at Nevis Public School.

While at Nevis School, Mrs. Collins served in a variety of other capacities, as well. She supervised 20 proms, served as student counsel advisor for two years, and supervised numerous internships for new teachers, counselors, and administrators. She was named Northwest Minnesota counselor of the year in 1989, was a member of the Wadena Technical College Student Advisory Board 1995-1999, a member of the State Vocational Advisory Board, and a member of many other state and national education associations.

- May 16, 1989** Mr. Halbur recommended hiring Mrs. Collins as elementary principal and counselor, she was to finish her principal license by the end of the summer. The state required at least ½ time for each
- February 24, 1992** A contract was offered with a 4% total package increase and \$2,000 incentive for the 1991-1992 school year and 4% increase for the 1992-1993 school year, insurance the same as the teachers
- January 16, 1996** A contract was offered for two years with increases in salary of \$1,452.75 the first year and \$1,496.34 the second year
- September 28, 1998** A contract for the next two years was approved with a base salary of \$50,000 and increases of \$2,000 per year
- March 25, 2002** Mrs. Collins resignation as principal effective the end of the school year, was accepted at the school board meeting.
- July 22, 2002** Mrs. Collins was approved as a half time career counselor and testing coordinator for the district
- December 21, 2009** Mrs. Collins resignation from Nevis Public School accepted at the school board meeting



**Mrs. Jodi Lynn Sandmeyer  
2002-2010**

Mrs. Sandmeyer graduated from Bemidji High School, Bemidji, Minnesota in 1990. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota in 1994 with a major in mathematics and mathematics education with a minor in physics. She earned her Master of Science degree in mathematics education from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota in 2001. She earned her principal license in 2002, superintendent license in 2006, and Sixth Year Degree in educational administration in 2006 all from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mrs. Sandmeyer taught mathematics and science in Nevis High School from 1994-2002. She accepted the principal position in the fall of 2002. During her tenure at Nevis, Mrs. Sandmeyer was able to start an Alternative Learning Program, allowing students to make up credits and graduate on time. She also started the college in the high school program where Nevis was able to offer six different college credit classes.

**May 28, 2002**

Mrs. Sandmeyer was offered the K-12 principal position with a salary of \$55,000 and benefits the same as the teachers' contract for 10 months and summer hours as needed.

**Fall 2007**

Mrs. Sandmeyer became the 7-12 principal as Mrs. Hadrava assumed the K-6 principal duties.

**June 14, 2010**

Mrs. Sandmeyer resignation from her position as principal was accepted at a special school board meeting, contingent upon being offered a full-time teaching contract to continue at Nevis Public School as part-time math teacher, district assessment coordinator, Principal of Alternative Learning Program, and academic advisor.



**Mrs. Sharon Marie Hadrava  
2007-2010**

Mrs. Hadrava earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in 1986 from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota with a major in elementary education and emphasis in political science and social studies. She earned her Masters of Science Degree in educational leadership from Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota in July 2007.

Mrs. Hadrava started her career in education as a substitute teacher from 1986-1990. She was offered her first teaching position in 1990 at Laporte Elementary, Laporte, Minnesota. She taught there for eight years, prior to accepting a position at Nevis Public School as a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading/math specialist in the fall of 1999. She was approved at the December 20, 1999, school board meeting, effective November 3, 1999, for three days per week. At the February 28, 2000 school board meeting, she was approved as part-time administrative assistant for the remainder of the year. She became the full-time administrative assistant for the 2003-2004 school year. Then, she became elementary principal in the fall of 2007. Her position was cut in the spring of 2010 when enrollment had dropped to 517 and funding was limited. This resulted in the school board creating one K-12 principal position. Mrs. Hadrava then returned to teaching at Nevis Public School.

**August 27, 2007** This was the first board meeting where Mrs. Hadrava was referred to as the elementary principal. Prior to this, she had the title of Administrative Assistant.

**April 26, 2010** Mrs. Hadrava's elementary principal position was cut due to finances. She was reassigned as Title I instructor for the 2010-2011 school year.



**Mr. John Harald Strom  
2010-present**

Mr. Strom was born in Norway in 1952 and immigrated to Canada soon after with his parents. He was raised in Winnipeg, Canada and graduated from Vincent Massey Collegiate (high school) in 1970. He earned a Bachelor of Physical Education & Recreation Degree from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada in 1974.

In August 1974 he started his career in education as Director of Community Schools and became a classroom teacher in 1979. He taught physical education, English, and social studies as well as coached volleyball, track and field, and cross country.

Mr. Strom completed his Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada in 1991 and for the next 20 years he was a school counselor.

In 1995, Mr. Strom moved with his wife Alice, Nevis class of 1967 and daughter Meghan, Nevis class of 1998, from Winnipeg, Canada to rural Nevis and became an American citizen.

Mr. Strom continued his work as a counselor in Park Rapids at Century Middle School. He earned his principal's license from Minnesota State University, Moorhead in 2001 and his superintendent's license from Minnesota State University, Moorhead in 2008. In 2006, he moved to Fosston, Minnesota to be the high school principal. In 2010 he accepted the K-12 principal position in Nevis.

**July 13, 2010**

Mr. Strom was selected for the position of K-12 principal at Nevis Public School at a special school board meeting

**July 26, 2010**

Mr. Strom's contract as K-12 principal was approved at the regular school board meeting