

AMY (EVANS) COCKBURN

EDUCATIONAL LEADER • K–12 SYSTEMS • STUDENT-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Strategic and student-centered educational executive with nearly two decades of progressive leadership experience as a teacher, athletic director, transportation director, assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, and emergency superintendent. Experienced in leading complex K–12 systems, strengthening curriculum and instruction, developing administrators and staff, using data to drive continuous improvement, and aligning academic priorities, student supports, resources, and operations. A relational, visible, and decisive leader who builds trust through collaboration, transparency, and accountability. Brings broad experience in strategic planning, school improvement, assessment, professional development, MTSS, alternative education, athletics, budgeting, staffing, grants, safety, and district operations. Known for navigating complex challenges, building effective partnerships, and translating strategic priorities into measurable action. Committed to expanding opportunities and improving outcomes for all students while serving as a trusted partner to the Board of Education, staff, families, and community.

LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS

• ■ Strategic & Systems Leadership • ■ Executive Leadership & Superintendent Partnership • ■ K–12 Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment • ■ Principal Development & Instructional Leadership • ■ Strategic Planning & Continuous Improvement • ■ Data-Driven Decision-Making & Accountability • ■ Organizational Alignment & Change Leadership • ■ Staff Development, Coaching & Evaluation • ■ Equity, Access & Student-Centered Leadership • ■ Cross-Functional Team Leadership • ■ Crisis Management & Complex Problem-Solving

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal – South Haven High School

South Haven Public Schools | 2025–Present

- Provide strategic and instructional leadership for a comprehensive high school, aligning school priorities, programs, staffing, and resources with district goals and student needs.
- Supervise, coach, and evaluate administrators, teachers, and support staff while building leadership capacity, strengthening professional practice, and promoting accountability.
- Lead school improvement, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional learning initiatives using student achievement, attendance, behavior, and performance data to identify needs and monitor progress.
- Develop and implement systems to strengthen student achievement, attendance, school culture, MTSS, and interventions for diverse student populations.
- Collaborate with district leadership and fellow administrators to strengthen K–12 alignment, implement strategic initiatives, and address complex instructional and operational challenges.
- Oversee school operations, including staffing, scheduling, student services, safety, discipline, extracurricular programming, facilities, and resource allocation.
- Build collaborative relationships with students, staff, families, community organizations, and district partners to strengthen engagement, trust, and educational opportunities.
- Ensure compliance with Board policies, collective bargaining agreements, state and federal requirements, and district procedures while managing complex personnel, student, family, and operational matters.

Principal / Vice Principal – South Decatur Jr./Sr. High School

Decatur County Community School Corporation | 2024–2025

- Collaborate with district leadership and fellow administrators to strengthen K–12 alignment, implement strategic initiatives, and address complex instructional and operational challenges.
- Oversee school operations, including staffing, scheduling, student services, safety, discipline, extracurricular programming, facilities, and resource allocation.
- Build collaborative relationships with students, staff, families, community organizations, and district partners to strengthen engagement, trust, and educational opportunities.
- Ensure compliance with Board policies, collective bargaining agreements, state and federal requirements, and district procedures while managing complex personnel, student, family, and operational matters.

Curriculum Director / Emergency Superintendent / Principal

Whitko Community School Corporation | 2021–2024

- Provided strategic leadership across school and district operations through service as principal, curriculum director, emergency superintendent, corporation safety coordinator, McKinney-Vento liaison, Title IX coordinator, and district representative to the Chamber of Commerce.

- Served as emergency superintendent, providing executive leadership and organizational stability during a period of transition and significant operational challenges, including districtwide crisis response and technology recovery.

- Led districtwide curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, and continuous improvement initiatives to strengthen instructional alignment and student outcomes across K–12 schools.

- Collaborated with principals, teachers, and district leaders to analyze student performance data, strengthen instructional practices, implement curriculum initiatives, and align academic priorities across schools.

- Supervised, coached, and evaluated administrators, teachers, and staff while supporting professional growth, organizational accountability, and effective implementation of district expectations.

- Coordinated districtwide safety, crisis response, Title IX, and McKinney-Vento responsibilities while ensuring compliance with Board policy and state and federal requirements and supporting the needs of students and families.

- Partnered with the Board of Education, district leadership, staff, families, and community organizations to support strategic planning, budgeting, staffing, resource allocation, grants, and complex organizational initiatives.

- Represented the district with the Chamber of Commerce and community partners, strengthening relationships, expanding collaboration, and advancing initiatives that supported students, schools, and the broader community.

Assistant Principal – Northeastern High School

Northeastern Wayne Schools | 2021

- Supported the principal in providing instructional and operational leadership while advancing school and district priorities, student achievement, and continuous improvement efforts.

- Supervised, coached, and evaluated teachers and staff, providing actionable feedback and professional support to strengthen instructional practices and student outcomes.

- Used achievement, attendance, behavior, and student performance data to identify needs, monitor progress, and guide school improvement strategies and interventions.

- Led student support, attendance, discipline, and MTSS initiatives while collaborating with staff, families, and community partners to address barriers to student success.

- Coordinated school operations, including scheduling, testing, safety, extracurricular activities, and student services, ensuring effective and consistent implementation of school and district procedures.

- Collaborated with administrators and instructional teams to strengthen curriculum alignment, assessment practices, professional learning, and implementation of district initiatives

- Managed complex student, personnel, and family concerns through effective communication, collaborative problem-solving, sound judgment, and consistent application of policies and procedures.

- Built positive relationships with students, staff, families, and community stakeholders while promoting a safe, inclusive, accountable, and student-centered school culture.

Athletic Director – Kouts Middle/High School

East Porter County Schools | 2018–2019

- Supervised, supported, and evaluated coaches and athletic staff while promoting accountability, professional growth, and a positive student-centered culture.

- Managed athletic budgets, purchasing, scheduling, transportation, facilities, staffing, and resource allocation to ensure effective and efficient program operations.

- Ensured compliance with district policies, conference expectations, state athletic association requirements, and student eligibility and safety regulations.

- Coordinated complex schedules, events, facilities, officials, transportation, and personnel across multiple athletic programs and competing organizational priorities.

- Used participation, academic, financial, and program data to evaluate effectiveness, identify needs, and guide continuous improvement efforts.

- Collaborated with administrators, staff, families, students, and community partners to address concerns, solve problems, and expand opportunities for student participation and success.

- Led crisis response, safety planning, and high-level problem-solving during athletic events while exercising sound judgment and effective communication.

Teacher, Coach, Mentor – Wawasee Community Schools

2009–2020

- Secondary Social Studies and Science teacher.
- Coach and student leadership mentor.
- Outdoor Club Sponsor.
- Technology, School Improvement, Wellness, ACT committee member.

United States Army – Combat Medic

2003–2005

- Developed disciplined leadership, preventative safety measures, crisis response capability, and team-centered decision-making.
- Received multiple Army Accommodation Medals and Army Achievement Medals for meritorious service.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Educational Leadership (ABD) - Indiana State University
- M.A. Nonprofit Management - Grace College
- Building Level Administrator License - Purdue University
- B.S. Liberal Arts – History - Excelsior College

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

- Rotary, Optimist, Kiwanis District Representative
- Chamber of Commerce Education Representative
- Indiana Master Naturalist
- 4-H Education & Dairy Committee
- Indiana Riverwatch Volunteer
- Kosciusko County Velo Volunteer
- Michigan Adventure Race Volunteer
- Ice Festival Volunteer

RESEARCH

Allison, William Thomas. American Diplomats in Russia: Case Studies in Orphan Diplomacy, 1916-1919. Praeger, 1997.

Cockburn, B. S., Liu, S., & Cockburn, A. E. (2016, October). Entitled to opportunity: A three study analysis of the Millennial generation and how work preferences relate to job choice and motivation. Paper presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Academy of Management, Fargo, ND.

REFERENCES

- Dr. Paul Kaiser, Indiana State University Professor/Former Superintendent [REDACTED]
- Dr. Matthew Hicks, Northeastern Superintendent [REDACTED]
- Dr. Tom Edington, Wawasee/Whitko Retired Superintendent [REDACTED]
- Mrs. Georgia Tenney, Whitko School Board Member [REDACTED]
- Dr. Jarrod Burns, Decatur County Schools Superintendent, [REDACTED]