



SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PRESS RELEASE

Swampscott High School Principal Search

SWAMPSCOTT – Superintendent of Schools Pamela R. H. Angelakis read the following statement at Wednesday night’s School Committee meeting regarding the Swampscott High School principal search:

I am truly grateful for the stability that Mr. Frank Kowalski and Ms. Lytania Mackey have brought to Swampscott High School, especially in the trying times of the last three months. Their leadership and commitment, along with the talented and dedicated staff, have brought the high school and our students through one of the most challenging situations ever experienced in Swampscott Public Schools. I remain confident that the remainder of the school year will be positive and productive under their guidance.

I have spent a significant amount of time deliberating the best next step for our students at the high school. I have taken into consideration the instability that the high turnover rate in the high school principal position has caused. After reflecting on the strong leadership team in our district and how to best utilize their individual skills and strengths, I am appointing Mr. Robert Murphy interim principal at Swampscott High School and Mr. Jason Calichman interim principal at Swampscott Middle School for the 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Murphy has taught World History and World Geography for nine years at the high school level. He also has five years’ experience as a middle school principal, four years’ experience as a high school vice principal, in addition to the last four years as Swampscott Middle School principal. During his time as an administrator in Swampscott he has demonstrated his leadership capacity by consistently taking on additional responsibilities as a member and chair of a variety of committees.

Mr. Murphy is a member of our district-wide Mental Health Task Force and chair of our district-wide crisis team, which includes members of the DPW, fire, and police departments. He has been a member of the MIAA Middle Level Athletic Committee for the past eight years, including the last two years as co-chair. He has led our district-wide ALICE training (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) and recently went through a rigorous application and interview process and was named a member of NEMLEC (Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council).

In four years as vice principal of Swampscott Middle School, Mr. Calichman has proven to be an effective and committed administrator who is a firm believer in the importance of educating the whole child during these critical years. Mr. Calichman is continually reflecting on best practice in order to identify ways to improve student achievement and enhance the overall operation.

Mr. Calichman has been instrumental in reducing instances of tardiness by 60 percent in the last four years. Among his other accomplishments are: leading the Middle School Crisis Team; designing and implementing a behavior rubric; scheduling and overseeing mandated testing; creating the Big Blue Pride Award to recognize students who are consistently *doing the right thing*; and reinstating summer school for students who require additional learning time. This year he will be rolling out a new virtual learning summer school program.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Calichman have worked tirelessly with their dedicated and capable staff to raise the expectations for our students at the middle school. Placing them in these new roles for the 2016-17 school year is the best solution for our district at this time and I am confident it will benefit our students in grades 5-12.