

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWS

HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ACCEPTS NEW POSITION OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

Retired GPS Principal To Assume Role as Interim Principal

(For immediate release: Greenwich, CT - Wednesday, August 12, 2009) Dr. Damaris Rau, Principal of Hamilton Avenue School, has announced that she has accepted a Central Office position in another Connecticut school district, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Rau's last day at Hamilton Avenue School will be Friday, September 4, 2009.

Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Ellen Flanagan, said, "Dr. Rau is an outstanding instructional leader who worked tirelessly for and with the Hamilton Avenue School community over the past five years. Under her leadership the Hamilton Avenue School staff implemented a program of improvement which resulted in significant gains in student achievement in all areas. For the past year, Dr. Rau has served as the district's lead principal, providing leadership training and mentorship to GPS administrators. We congratulate her on her new position and wish her the best of luck in this new chapter of her career."

Ms. Nancy Carbone, retired Principal of Julian Curtiss School, has agreed to accept the role of Interim Principal of Hamilton Avenue School effective September 8, 2009 and until the position is filled on a permanent basis. Ms. Carbone is a veteran educator and administrator with more than 35 years of experience. The search for a new Principal is underway and the objective is to have the position filled by December 31, 2009.

Dr. Sidney Freund remarked, "We are fortunate that a principal of Nancy's caliber, with experience in Greenwich, is willing and able to help us through the transition period."

Bio Brief: Damaris Rau

As Principal for Hamilton Avenue School since 2004 and as Lead Principal for the District for the last year, Dr. Rau has made significant contributions to the District and to the school communities in which she has worked.

Dr. Rau is responsible for impressive increases in achievement at Hamilton Avenue School. The school was named as the 2007-08 *CT State Vanguard School for Significant Achievement* and recognized by ConnCAN as a *Top Ten School in Connecticut* (in 2006 & 2007), ranking 3rd Statewide for most improved elementary school – in acknowledgement of the school's successes. She also had leadership and execution responsibilities in all aspects of the development of a new building for Hamilton Avenue School. She was involved in the development of the education specifications for the building; planned and executed multiple moves to temporary locations throughout the extended building process; and participated in the building committee process. During this time, Dr. Rau also researched, developed, planned and implemented a new magnet program for the school. She has participated on and made valuable contributions to the District's Summer School, Closing the Achievement Gap, and Secondary Schools Review Committees.

Prior to her appointment at Hamilton Avenue School, Dr. Rau spent one year as Interim Principal of New Lebanon School, where she used data to plan for, focus on, and monitor the instructional program; and successfully implemented outreach initiatives to increase the participation of minority parents.

She first came to Greenwich in 1997 as Teacher Leader for Parkway School responsible for Special Education program supervision and Chair of the Pupil Placement Team, in addition to the school-wide supervisory responsibilities. In her role as Assistant Principal at Parkway School for six years (1997-2003), she also chaired, organized and implemented outcomes for the School Improvement Team, Organizational Skills, Social Skills Development, and Math Committees.

At the start of her career, Dr. Rau spent fourteen years with the New York City Public Schools, first as teacher at the Community School District 9 (1983-1988), then as an administrator at Community School District 12 in Bronx, N.Y. (1988-1997); instructing, developing, implementing and assessing talented and gifted programs.

Dr. Rau received her B.S. in Elementary Education from St. John's University in N.Y. (1983), her M.S. in Elementary Early Childhood Education from Hunter College, N.Y. (1987), and her Professional Diploma in School Administration and Supervision for the College of New Rochelle, N.Y. (1990). In 2003, she received her Ed. D. in Organizational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, N.Y.

Bio Brief: Nancy Carbone

Ms. Nancy Carbone is a veteran educator with more than 35 years of experience. She retired in June 2009 after serving as Principal of Julian Curtiss School for the past 18 years. Ms. Carbone and her staff were responsible for the organization of Julian Curtiss School as a magnet school for World Language in 2002. Since then, Julian Curtiss School has enjoyed a truly international feel with all students studying either French or Spanish beginning in Kindergarten. The magnet theme is enhanced by the school's United Nations Day celebration each fall. This event includes a Parade of Nations as well as an international food festival.

Under Ms. Carbone's tenure, Julian Curtiss School instituted a daily television show which is produced, directed and performed by students. "JC Today Show", as it is called, airs regular segments on school news as well as special features like Pet Talk and Excellent Eagles. The program reinforces students' writing and verbal communication skills and builds confidence and self-esteem.

Ms. Carbone began her career in education as a high school English teacher in Waterbury, Connecticut. She moved on to administration in 1982 as an Assistant Principal in Brookfield, Connecticut and later Principal of Samuel Staples School in Easton, Connecticut before coming to Julian Curtiss School in 1991.

Ms. Carbone was named a National Distinguished Principal by the United States Department of Education in 1991 and was honored in 2003 by the YWCA with a BRAVA Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Ms. Carbone received her B.S. in English and Secondary Education from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven (1972); her M.S. in Counselor Education from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven (1976); and her Sixth Year Diploma in Administration & Supervision from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven (1982).

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