

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWS

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES INTERIM PRINCIPAL FOR HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL Search Re-opened for Permanent Principal

(For immediate release: Greenwich, CT – Thursday, October 22, 2009) Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sidney A. Freund, announced today the appointment of Barbara Riccio as the Interim Principal for Hamilton Avenue School (HAS), effective January 1, 2010.

Ms. Riccio is currently the Assistant Principal at Parkway School. An experienced teacher and administrator in preschool, elementary and special education since 1973, she has worked for the Greenwich Public Schools for more than thirteen years. She has a strong background in research based instructional practices and staff development and is a valued member of the Greenwich District Data Team, the school system's strategic improvement planning team.

The current Interim Principal at Hamilton Avenue, Nancy Carbone, had agreed to serve in this position until the end of this calendar year. A search for a permanent principal was conducted, however, the interview committee - made up of HAS teachers and parents, District administrators and GOSA, GEA and PTAC representatives - was unable to reach consensus on candidates to move forward in the process for the Superintendent's consideration and ultimate selection.

The District will re-open the search for Principal of Hamilton Avenue School after the new calendar year and expects to announce the appointment prior to the start of the 2010-11 school year. Dr. Freund said, "We offer our sincerest appreciation to Nancy Carbone for her leadership in getting Hamilton Avenue School off to a great start this school year. I have confidence in Barbara Riccio to provide effective, high-quality leadership for Hamilton Avenue through this transition."

The Superintendent expects to appoint an Interim Assistant Principal for Parkway School by January 1, 2010.

Bio Brief: Barbara Riccio

Barbara Riccio was appointed to her current position as Assistant Principal for Parkway School in 2008. In addition to her building leadership responsibilities, Ms. Riccio has been instrumental in planning for and implementing the District's key strategic improvement initiative – Data Teams. She has been through extensive training and is a leader in implementing this initiative at Parkway School, and also as a member of the District Data Team, preparing for a system-wide adoption of this framework.

Ms. Riccio began her career in education as a Speech Therapist for the Berkshire Hills Regional School System in Stockbridge, MA (1973-1974), and then for the New York City Public Schools, District 25 in Queens, NY (1974-1976).

After a ten-year period as a small business owner, she returned to education in 1987 as a Director of the Children's Program for the Mother and Child Center in New Rochelle, NY. In 1990, she became Director of the Parenting Programs for the Mother and Child Center, supervising parent discussion groups, cultural classes, children's play programs, and workshop series.

In 1994, she began working for the Greenwich Public Schools as a teacher in the Community Preschool

Program, and as Team Leader coordinated implementation and follow up of Individual Education Plans (IEP). From 1997 to 2000, Ms. Riccio served in a consultative position, planning, evaluating and designing programs for students with severe disabilities for inclusion in the general education setting.

After two years with the New Rochelle City School District as Assistant Chair on the Committee on Special Education, she returned to the Greenwich Public Schools as a Preschool Evaluator and Staff Development Coach. In this role she provided support for staff with early intervention strategies, conducted evaluations, and was responsible for reports and record keeping.

During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Riccio served as acting Assistant Principal for North Street School, assisting the Principals with the daily operation of the school.

Ms. Riccio received her B.S. in Speech/Language from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY in 1973, graduating Magna Cum Laude; an M.S. in Special Education from Queens College of the City University of New York in Flushing, NY in 1976, graduating Summa Cum Laude; and a second M.S. in Educational Leadership from the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, NY in 2006, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

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