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Stefan Czaporowski

Superintendent of Schools

April 5, 2018 Press Release

Stefan Czaporowski, Superintendent of Schools, is pleased to announce that Chris Tolpa-Matuszczak has accepted the position as the Franklin Avenue Principal. “Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak’s commitment to build the foundation for the youngest students in Westfield was prevalent in her interviews and is evident in her work as Interim Principal since January 2018,” commented Superintendent Czaporowski. “It’s an honor to become a permanent part of the Franklin family. I look forward working with Franklin’s amazing staff and engaged parents to provide collaborative and innovative learning opportunities,” remarked Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak.

Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak has nearly thirty years of experience in education. After receiving her Bachelors from UMASS Amherst, she worked as an English Teacher at West Springfield High School for almost six years. During that time, she earned her Masters in Administration from Springfield College. Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak began her career in Westfield Public Schools as an assistant principal at Westfield High School for three years. She has been the Supervisor of Humanities (social studies, art, English foreign language, and music curriculums) for the last seventeen years. Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak is currently serving on the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Assessment Development Committee and is a member of the Western MA Writing Project. Chris has also owned and operated her own business. She resides in Westfield with her husband and two children.

Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak was selected after a thorough hiring process. The Franklin Avenue Search Committee comprised of staff, parents, and Westfield Public School administrators was charged by Superintendent Czaporowski to review applicants, conduct confidential interviews, and recommend a slate of finalists. The Franklin Avenue Search Committee recommended two finalists, Chris Tolpa-Matuszczak and Ms. Christine Wenz, to Superintendent Czaporowski. Both candidates spent April 3, 2018 interviewing with Central Office administrators including Superintendent Czaporowski, spending time at Franklin Avenue School interacting with students, and staff, and holding two meet and greet sessions, the first with district administrators and the last with community members. All stakeholders who met the finalists were encouraged to provide feedback to the Superintendent. Noted Superintendent Czaporowski, “This expanded and inclusive hiring process has provided the opportunity to stakeholders to provide input prior to the selection of the finalist. I am grateful for all stakeholders for their time and input.”

Superintendent Czaporowski announced his decision to Franklin Avenue Elementary School staff prior to the start of the April 5th school day. Through smiles, Ms. Tolpa-Matuszczak said, “My HEART is filled with joy to be able to continue building positive relationships with our wonderful students.”