May 4, 2020

Dear Port Washington Community,

Dr. Wafa Deeb-Westervelt’s recent announcement of her retirement as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment provided the district with a unique opportunity to look at some of our administrative positions and possibilities for consolidation and cost savings. In light of the economic impact the Covid-19 health crisis has had on our community, and the potential for an immediate or rolling loss of state aid for the 2020-2021 school year, the Board of Education and central administration determined it was critical to suspend any new hiring activity at the administrative level moving forward.

As we informed the community earlier this week, in filling Dr. Westervelt’s position, we turned to Dr. David Meoli, our current John P. Sousa principal, as an interim replacement effective July 1, 2020. Additionally, we appointed Ms. Meg Sheehan, the current assistant principal of John P. Sousa and Guggenheim, as interim principal at John P. Sousa effective July 1, 2020.

In filling Ms. Sheehan’s current assistant principal position, we are happy to announce we have appointed Ms. Danielle Mattina, our current associate administrator for literacy grades 3-6, as interim assistant principal for Sousa and Guggenheim effective July 1, 2020. In line with this appointment, we have expanded the responsibilities of Dr. Victoria Borsella, our current associate administrator for literacy grades PreK-2, to PreK-6, effective July 1, 2020. These moves have resulted in the elimination of one administrative position and an annual savings of $180,000 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Mattina, who has worked in PWUFSD for two years, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Long Island University-C.W. Post, and a Master of Science in literacy from Touro College. Ms. Mattina brings many leadership strengths to this new position with her experience from SCOPE Education Services as program director; NYC Department of Education as a teacher leader and instruction coach; and Garden City Park UFSD as district coordinator.

Dr. Borsella, who has worked in the district for three years, earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Iona College; a Master of Science in reading and literacy, a Master of Science in special education, and a Master of Science in school building and school district leadership from the College of New Rochelle; and a Doctorate in Education from St. John Fisher College. Dr. Borsella’s diverse background in education as an administrative intern, kindergarten teacher, and curriculum coordinator will be critical in her success in this position.

On behalf of central administration and the Board of Education, we will continue to work together to develop creative solutions that will allow us to keep the tax increase as low as possible for next year, while not impacting resources and programs for our students.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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