



DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Derby Board Appoints the New Principal of Derby High School



At the January 5, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, The Derby Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Advisory Selection Committee and Superintendent of Schools, unanimously appointed Jennifer Olson as principal of Derby High School.

Mrs. Olson came to the Derby Schools in 2012 when she was appointed as Irving School Principal. During her tenure at Irving, the school was certified with Exemplary School Climate Recognition through the Connecticut Association of Schools. She and her team created a safe and supportive environment as the foundation of the turnaround work at Irving. Also in 2017, Jennifer was a finalist in the selection process for the National Distinguished Principal Award or Elementary Principal of the Year Award.

In 2018 Mrs. Olson was appointed to the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the District, providing better support for new learning initiatives, working side by side with our Director of Teaching and Learning, teachers, coaches and principals to positively impact learning for students in every classroom.

Mrs. Olson stepped up as the Interim Principal of Derby High School for the past 4 months from her District role. She was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the District Reopening Plan to support all schools through our reopening.

When asked how she feels about the challenge of her new role Mrs. Olson said, “I appreciate the confidence and trust the Derby Board of Education and Superintendent has placed in me with this appointment. I am deeply committed and I am looking forward to working collaboratively with our terrific team at the high school to best serve our students and families. This is an exciting opportunity and I look forward to starting this new chapter.”

Dr. Matthew J. Conway, Jr., Superintendent said, “I am very excited for Jen and the District as she continues in the role of leading our High School through one of the most challenging times in our history. I am confident her proven turnaround work in our District will transcend across all classrooms at Derby High School. This is hard work and takes an all-in, “just one more” attitude by everyone involved. I know Jen and our amazing staff at DHS are up for the challenge.”

Chairman of the Board, Jim Gildea said, “The Board is always excited when we are able to see members of the Derby Public School family take on new challenges and grow within the school community. Jen has a proven track record of leading and turning around a school as evidenced by the work she did as leader of Irving School. Jen is a proven problem solver, tireless worker and someone willing to think outside the box to address issues and challenges. We wish her good luck and look forward to her continued impact on our school system.”