



# THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 10, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

It is great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr. Laurence Prentiss as the next principal at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Ms. Noveline Beltram submitted her retirement letter earlier this year after dedicating her entire forty-one-year career at Thompson Public Schools. During her tenure, Ms. Beltram served as an outstanding music educator at all three levels and assistant principal at Thompson Middle School before taking the leadership role at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. On behalf of the community, I wish Ms. Noveline Beltram all the best in her retirement and hope she will visit our students, faculty, and staff often!

Ms. Beltram will be working with Mr. Prentiss over the next few weeks to develop a smooth transition plan. Re-opening school in the fall will be challenging as there are so many unknown variables at this time.

Mr. Prentiss has been working in Thompson for almost nineteen years and knows the school community well. He began his career as a physical education teacher at Tourtellotte Memorial High School and Thompson Middle School. Then, he served as an assistant principal at both Mary R. Fisher Elementary School and Thompson Middle School. Mr. Prentiss has served in all three schools and he is a well-respected administrator. I am excited he has accepted this promotion to lead the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

A special thank you must also go out to Mr. William McDonald. Mr. McDonald has been assigned as a part time assistant principal the past two years. We are grateful for his dedication to the district's youngest students and their families. The assistant principal position at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School is being eliminated due to necessary budget reductions. Please join me in extending the best of luck to Mr. McDonald with his future career pursuits.

**Additional reductions had to be made to the budget which include:**

Part Time Curriculum Director

Part Time TMHS Assistant Principal

Behavior Therapist

ELA Teacher – TMHS

Social Studies Teacher – TMHS

Math Teacher – TMHS

Guidance Counselor – TMHS

Maintenance Position

Several paraprofessional positions

Capital Projects

A total reduction of \$1,189,270.00 was recommended by me and approved by the BOE on June 8, 2020 to balance an overall budget of \$18,980,513.00 voted by the members of the Board of Finance at a meeting held on June 1, 2020.

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**Staff assignment changes as a result of the reductions are as follows:**

Laurence Prentiss	TMS Assistant Principal	to	Principal MRFES
Ian Polun	TMHS Assistant Principal	to	TMS Assistant Principal
Julie Maliff	TMHS Guidance Counselor	to	TMS Guidance Counselor
Caitlyn Adler	TMS Guidance Counselor	to	TMHS ELA Teacher

I want to take the opportunity to thank the many parents, students, faculty, and staff who spoke out in support of the BOE budget over the past few months. Your advocacy was much appreciated.

Over the next few weeks, I expect to have more details regarding the opening of school for the 20/21 school year. I will be sending out a survey to parents to gather input in order to plan for the upcoming year. As soon as a firm plan is in place, I will host several parent meetings via ZOOM to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

*Melinda A. Smith*

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools