



## **EMBARGOED UNTIL: TUESDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>; 7:30 p.m.**

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Press Contact: Kathryn Bonetti, Communications Coordinator  
Milford Public Schools  
(203) 882-5872  
kbonetti@milforded.org

### **Dr. Anna Cutaia Named Superintendent of Schools in Milford**

**MILFORD** – The Milford Board of Education is pleased to announce the election of Dr. Anna Cutaia as the next Superintendent of Milford Public Schools. The appointment marks the conclusion of an intense search conducted by the Board serving as the Search Committee, with the assistance of Executive Searches/Cooperative Educational Services (CES) and input from the Milford community. The position became available due to the announced retirement of Dr. Elizabeth E. Feser, who has served the district as its superintendent since 2011.

Dr. Cutaia comes to Milford with 27 years of professional educational experience, most recently serving as the Superintendent of Schools for Regional District 14 for the past four years, encompassing the communities of Bethlehem and Woodbury. Before leading Regional District 14, she served for six years as the Director of Elementary Education in the Fairfield Public School district.

Dr. Cutaia received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount St. Mary College in 1991, followed by a master's degree in education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997. While working as an educator for several years, Dr. Cutaia continued her post-graduate studies and received her certificate in the Executive Leadership Program (2007) followed by a Doctorate in Education (2013), both from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Cutaia's career path has touched every segment of the educational leadership spectrum. She started her career in Myrtle Beach, SC, where she served as a teacher (1991-1998), an assistant principal (1998-2000), and principal (2000 – 2003). In 2003, Dr. Cutaia moved to Connecticut and served as principal of Casimir Pulaski Elementary School in Meriden. During her early years in Connecticut, Dr. Cutaia also worked with the Connecticut State Dept. of Education (CSDE) as an educational consultant and as an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut and Southern Connecticut State University.

Dr. Cutaia is a member of the Superintendent's Network, under the auspices of the Connecticut Center for School Change (CCSC), as well as a member of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS). She is also a member of Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. Cutaia brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to Milford, having been deeply involved in all aspects of school district operation and improvement. During her time in Regional District 14, she led the development and implementation of a district theory of action and strategy map, guiding decision-making process for the district. She implemented a seven-year review/revision cycle for curriculum writing and was invaluable in strengthening professional development to improve student outcomes. In the area of operations and facilities, Dr. Cutaia was involved in the planning and financing of multiple facility upgrades (nearly 320,000 square feet of school space). She also collaborated with district officials on the \$63 million renovation project for Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury. She is a supporter of communications with all stakeholders and an active member of the local community.

Among her accomplishments, Dr. Cutaia is recognized as a prolific researcher, writer, and presenter in the educational arena. Some of her more recent published work and presentations include *Teacher Leadership*, Ignite Innovation, (CAPSS/May 2018); and *Turn Down for What?*, Connecticut Association School Librarians/Connecticut Educators Computer Association Conference (Oct. 2016).

In a prepared statement, Susan Glennon, Milford Board of Education Chair commented "Dr. Cutaia possesses many of the qualities indicated in the Leadership Profile which was developed with input from over 1,000 Milford stakeholders. She has a breadth of experience, from the classroom to her current superintendency. She is well connected to the educational framework of the state and is well versed in the important initiatives that are ongoing in the district. She is committed not only to "students first" but also to building the capacity of those who work directly with our students. It is for these reasons and more, the Board feels Dr. Cutaia is the right fit for Milford Public Schools and we are very excited to have her join our community."

Dr. Cutaia is looking forward to joining the district and meeting the Milford community. "I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve the students and staff of Milford Public Schools. I look forward to partnering with the greater Milford community and its leaders and building upon the work the staff has accomplished for the benefit of its young people. Together, I know that we will continue the great work," she commented.

It is expected Dr. Cutaia will begin her post in Milford on or near August 1, 2018.

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