



Parkland School District
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For Immediate Release: January 15, 2019

**Parkland School Board Appoints Karen B. Dopera
Principal of New Veterans Memorial Elementary School
and Damian T. Goodman as Principal at Schnecksville
Elementary School**

(Allentown) – On Tuesday, January 15, 2019, the Board of School Directors announced the appointment of Mrs. Karen B. Dopera as Principal of Parkland’s Veterans Memorial Elementary School, currently under construction. Mrs. Dopera, currently the Principal at Parkland’s Schnecksville Elementary School, will be the first principal at Veterans Memorial when it opens in September 2020. Mr. Damian T. Goodman, current Parkland Elementary Dean of Students, was appointed as Schnecksville’s Principal and will replace Mrs. Dopera. Both will begin serving in their new positions on July 1, 2019.

Mrs. Dopera is looking forward with excitement to joining the Veterans Memorial community as the building leader. She has served as the building principal at Schnecksville Elementary for the past six years. Prior to coming to Parkland, she served as the Principal of Jefferson Elementary School, and as Principal of Lehigh Parkway School, both in the Allentown School District. She also served for 4 years as the Assistant Principal at Ritter Elementary School in Allentown. Prior to becoming involved in administration, Karen was an elementary teacher in the Allentown School District for 5 years. Mrs. Dopera holds a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Kutztown University, as well as a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction and Principal’s Certificate from Lehigh University.

Damian Goodman is excited to begin his first Principal role at Schnecksville Elementary School. He has been the Elementary Dean of Students for the District for the past four years and he filled in for Mrs. Dopera as the Principal of Schnecksville Elementary School when she was on maternity leave during his tenure as Dean of Students. Before this assignment, he taught for 10 years at Cetronia and Jandl Elementary Schools in Parkland. Mr. Goodman received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education

from Clemson University, Master of Education degree from Kutztown University and Principal's Certificate from Penn State University.

Richard T. Sniscak, Superintendent of Schools remarked, "Karen is a true professional and will do whatever it takes for the children and community she serves. She is very visible in her building, interactive, and involved with all facets of building leadership. Mrs. Dopera is well-organized, a true team player, and an extremely effective instructional leader in her role as Principal. We are quite pleased to announce her appointment as the new Principal at Veterans Memorial Elementary and we wish her the best in her transition to our newest school."

About Mr. Goodman, Mr. Sniscak stated, "Mr. Goodman has been an effective leader, serving the District's southern elementary schools in a supportive role for the last three years. His positive attitude and outstanding communication and interpersonal skills have allowed him to be successful in his current administrative role as the Dean of Students. He is a tremendous asset to the District and we look forward to his continued leadership as the new Principal of Schnecksville Elementary School."

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