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East Greenwich School Committee to Approve Three-Year Contracts with Ms. Melissa Centracchio & Dr. Patricia Page

East Greenwich, RI – The East Greenwich School Committee is poised to approve a three-year contract for Ms. Melissa Centracchio and Dr. Patricia Page to continue serving as the Principals of Cole Middle School and East Greenwich High School, respectively. They will officially drop the “interim” title from their roles on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The contracts will be recommended to the School Committee by Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent of Schools, at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

The process for hiring for these positions followed [District Policy 5410.1](#). Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Michael Podraza convened a Screening Committee for each role. Four candidates were selected from a pool of eleven for the high school position, but ultimately, only three were interviewed. That committee unanimously recommended Dr. Page as the only finalist. Dr. Ricca interviewed Dr. Page and confirmed the Screening Committee’s recommendation.

Four candidates were selected from a pool of ten for the middle school position, with two forwarded to Dr. Ricca as finalists. After interviewing the two finalists, Dr. Ricca selected Ms. Centracchio to continue serving at Cole.

When asked about the high school principal position, School Committee Chair Alyson Powell noted, “Dr. Page is a dedicated and innovative educator who has consistently helped our district create new pathways and opportunities for our students, and we are excited to have her leading EGHS into the future.”

Dr. Page holds graduate degrees in Business Administration and Education and a Ph.D. specializing in Educational Technology. Her varied career includes senior management positions in the private and public sectors responsible for organizational development, employee relations, compensation, and benefits; technical and leadership training; and information technology. Within the East Greenwich school district, she has supported students throughout their academic careers in fulfillment of our Vision of a Graduate. She has served as Performance-Based Graduation Requirements Coordinator, Third-Grade Teacher, Management and Finance Educator, and Applied Unified Arts Department Chair / CTE Coordinator. As Interim Principal, she guided the high school through the culminating phases of its decennial accreditation process, secured Career and Technical Education (CTE) status for the Performing Arts Pathway, and is spearheading the work of the School Improvement Team to align with district and state strategic goals.

Dr. Page has forged and scaled meaningful public-private partnerships on a district, state, and national level to support authentic student learning opportunities. She has worked in tandem with state and regional education officials, post-secondary administrators and educators, and civic partners to transform practice and policy to support the successful transition of high-school students into the post-secondary environment. Dr. Page brings extensive experience in designing,

implementing, and evaluating strategic plans, person-centered policies, and compliance-based initiatives in support of organizational objectives.

You can find Dr. Page outside the district supporting non-profit ventures throughout the state. She and her husband, David, live in East Greenwich and are the proud parents of two EGHS graduates.

Ms. Powell shared this as she reflected on Ms. Centracchio's presence in EG, "Strong leadership is the foundation of school success, and it is clear that Cole is thriving under Ms. Centracchio's leadership. Since stepping up as interim principal, she has inspired the Cole community to be its best every single day. She is admired by students and teachers alike, and we are proud and excited that she will continue her role as Principal of Cole Middle School."

This marks Ms. Centracchio's 24th year in education. She has spent the last year and a half at Cole Middle School as the assistant principal and interim principal. Before coming to East Greenwich, she was the assistant principal of teaching and learning at Warwick Veterans Middle School. Before that, Ms. Centracchio was in North Providence for 19 years, where she taught at the elementary and middle school levels and earned the North Providence Teacher of the Year distinction in 2016.

During her time at Cole, Ms. Centracchio has built strong relationships with students, staff, the community, and her fellow administrators. As an educator, her guiding principle has always been to put the best interest of students first - which remains her focus as she transitions to this new role.

Ms. Centracchio is a lifelong RI resident. She lives in Warwick with her husband and two daughters. She is an avid hockey fan and enjoys going to the beach and traveling with family and friends.

In thinking about these hires, Dr. Ricca added: "Both of these educational leaders are known and trusted members of the EGPS community. Dr. Page was critical in starting our CTE Program this year, and Ms. Centracchio's leadership can be traced back to her emphasis on culture and relationships. They both embrace our Strategic Plan, 'All Means All,' in words and actions. I look forward to their continued leadership for our entire district community. I am incredibly proud of the work they both have done in their interim roles, and know how thoughtfully and deliberately they will continue to serve our faculty, staff, students and their families as permanent educational leaders in EG."

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