



East Greenwich Public Schools

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EGPS Names New Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

East Greenwich, RI—At their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 16, the East Greenwich School Committee began a three-year contract with Sarah D. Courtemanche (pronounced Court-a-mosh) as the new Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. The position became available after Michael Podraza was named the Superintendent of Schools in South Kingstown.

Brianna Moody, the Human Resources Coordinator, and Coleen Smith, Principal of Hanaford School, Co-Chaired the Search Committee, which had two rounds. Various employees, school committee members, and parents were invited to participate in the search for this critical position in EGPS.

Mrs. Smith, when reflecting on this hire, said, “We were fortunate to have had several high-quality candidates for the position. The committee recommended Ms. Courtemanche as the successful candidate because of her focus on supporting students and teachers and ways to ensure that “All means all.” She is experienced in using data to advance learning and is open to innovative ways to elevate our craft. Her responses honored the work being done here in East Greenwich, and she is eager to collaborate with the talented educators here on behalf of our students and families.

Thirty candidates applied for the position, with ten selected for Round 1. From there, five were selected for Round 2, and Ms. Courtemanche was the only finalist recommended to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian G. Ricca

Round 1 Search Committee members included one parent, one school committee member, one representative from the teacher's union, one representative from the paraprofessional union, two representatives from the finance and administration department, one member from the technology department, three principals, one administrative employee, and human resources.

Round 2 members were an administrative employee, one school committee member, two principals, one principal who is also a parent in the district, and human resources.

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Several members from the first and second rounds of interviews joined Dr. Ricca for the final interview.

School Committee Chair Alyson Powell, who participated in the search, said, "We are so excited to have a professional with Sarah's experience and enthusiasm joining our EG team! Her focus on innovative improvement aligns well with the goals of our All Means All strategic plan and with EGPS's tradition of excellence in teaching and learning."

Ms. Courtemanche holds a Master's of Education in Educational Leadership, a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Special Education, and is pursuing a Public Leadership Credential from Harvard Kennedy School. She has a variety of educational experiences that include urban and suburban settings at the classroom and administrative levels. Her work history includes serving as a building-level administrator, district transformation specialist, and Chief Officer of Teaching and Learning. She has also served across the post-secondary system as an action researcher at Florida Atlantic University. Her body of work has included systems improvement, accountability infrastructure, federal and private grants, career and technical education, multilingual learner language acquisition, and mental and behavioral health advocacy. Ms. Courtemanche has also served in several volunteer roles and was gubernatorially appointed to the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, a member of the RI Pre-K-16 Council, and a board member of Diversity and Inclusion Professionals of New England. Sarah is a current member of the RI Trauma Informed Commission, New England Pediatric Mental Health Network, a Lifetime Member of Girl Scouts of Southern New England (2022 Leading Woman of Distinction), Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, and a recent graduate of Leadership Rhode Island.

Ms. Courtemanche believes in a healthy work-life balance and spends personal time camping across New England and traveling with her family. As an avid cook and lover of international music, you can often find her cooking and dancing. She is passionate about student growth and achievement, and the EGPS mission of ALL means ALL. Because she was a public-school student for her educational career, Ms. Courtemanche is committed to ensuring equitable opportunities for all students and families.

She resides in Greene, Rhode Island, with her husband, Jeffrey, and their three rescue dogs.

In reflecting on this newest member of the Leadership Team, Dr. Ricca offered: "Ms. Courtemanche, above all else, focused on her strengths in building relationships in her interview. During our formal and informal conversations, she demonstrated a commitment to the people of EGPS, whether students, faculty, staff, or families. Her work history shows her to be data-informed and learner-centered, which makes her an ideal person to lead EGPS as a model lifelong learner."

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