



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Board of Education Approves New Principal at Sunnyside Elementary**

INDIANAPOLIS – This evening, the Board of Education for the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township approved the appointment of Ms. Sharifa Blackwell as the principal of Sunnyside Elementary School. Ms. Blackwell brings 20 years of bilingual education experience as a teacher and administrator in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, having most recently served as the principal at Global Preparatory Academy. “I am honored to join the Sunnyside community as principal,” says Blackwell. “It is a privilege to lead a school where bilingualism, academic excellence, and cultural pride are at the heart of learning. I look forward to working with the school’s dedicated staff and families to support every child’s success.”

According to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Shawn A. Smith. “I am excited to welcome Ms. Blackwell as the new leader of Sunnyside Elementary. She brings valuable experience in education and a strong commitment to bilingual learning. I am confident her leadership will strengthen both academic achievement and cultural connection in our dual language community at Sunnyside.”

Ms. Blackwell holds earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from (formerly) Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. She holds a master’s in teaching from Southern Oregon University/University of Guanajuato, Mexico. Her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership is from the Teachers College of Columbia University.

**About the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township:**

The fifth largest school district in the state, the MSD of Lawrence Township serves approximately 17,000 students across four Early Learning Centers, eleven Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, two High Schools, a Center for Innovation and Technology, and an alternative setting high school. Lawrence Township strives to be the district of destination, a reputation built over the years based on the district’s award-winning staff, accomplished administrators, high-achieving students, supportive community, and innovative educational programs. Visit our website at [www.LTschools.org](http://www.LTschools.org).