



PRESS RELEASE

August 14, 2026

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTS PAUL K. SMITH ITS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Marlborough Board of Education has unanimously appointed Paul K. Smith as the next Superintendent of the Marlborough School District. The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Smith's appointment at its meeting on August 13. He will begin serving in this role immediately.

Mr. Smith brings more than two decades of distinguished educational leadership to Marlborough, including service as superintendent in East Hampton (2016-2024), Griswold (2012-2016), and Bolton (2008-2012), as well as most recently serving as Interim Superintendent for Region 17 Public Schools. Since retiring from full-time superintendent service in 2024, he has continued to support Connecticut school districts as an educational consultant, executive coach, and accreditation leader, helping school systems strengthen strategic planning, instructional improvement, and organizational effectiveness.

"We are delighted to welcome Paul Smith to the Marlborough family," said Raymond (Chip) Morris, Chair of the Marlborough Board of Education. "Throughout the search process, Paul demonstrated a deep commitment to student learning, thoughtful leadership, fiscal responsibility, and meaningful community engagement. His extensive experience, collaborative approach, and passion for public education, and communication expertise make him exceptionally well suited to lead our district as we build upon Marlborough's tradition of excellence."



Mr. Smith has earned a statewide reputation for building strong relationships with boards of education, educators, families, and municipal leaders while maintaining an unwavering focus on student success. During his tenure in East Hampton, he led the development of a district-wide strategic plan, strengthened school safety and mental health supports, expanded academic opportunities, increased family engagement, and guided significant operational and financial improvements. He has also been recognized for his leadership in strategic planning, governance, educational communications, and school accreditation.

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the confidence the Marlborough Board of Education has placed in me," said Smith. "Marlborough is a remarkable school community with a clear commitment to academic excellence, caring educators, engaged families, and extraordinary students. I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside the Board of Education, faculty, staff, students, parents, and the entire community to ensure every child continues to thrive. Together, we will build upon the district's many strengths while preparing students for a future filled with opportunity."

Throughout his career, Mr. Smith has emphasized educational excellence, compassionate leadership, transparent communication, and collaborative partnerships. His leadership philosophy centers on creating schools where every student is challenged, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

Mr. Smith received his Bachelor's Degree in Education and Music from Boston University, his Master's, also in Education and Music, from the Eastman School at the University of Rochester, and his Sixth Year and Superintendent Certificate from the University of Connecticut.



The Board expressed its appreciation to everyone who participated in the superintendent search process, including parents, teachers and staff members, students, and the community. Their participation in a survey and focus groups led to the development of a leadership profile that helped the Board identify the qualities most desired in the next district leader. The superintendent search was conducted in partnership with CABE Search Services consultant Mary Broderick, Ed.D.

Mr. Smith succeeds Dr. Holly Hageman, who has moved to become Superintendent of Schools in Barrington, RI.

About Marlborough Public Schools

The Marlborough School District serves the students and families of Marlborough, Connecticut, providing a high-quality educational experience in a supportive learning environment. The district is committed to inspiring curiosity, fostering academic excellence, and preparing every student for lifelong success.