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Norwalk Board of Education Approves Appointments of New Principal for Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy and New Assistant Principals at Roton Middle School and Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School

Norwalk, Conn. (Oct. 22, 2026) – The Norwalk Board of Education approved the appointment of three new school leadership positions in Norwalk Public Schools during its regular board business meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The board appointed Evan Byron as the new principal of Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy. Byron had been serving as the interim principal after serving as the school's assistant principal for seven years. He succeeds Dr. Damon Lewis, who was appointed as the Executive Director of Leadership Development for the district over the summer.

"To the Ponus Ridge staff, students and families, I am honored to continue serving as your principal. We have incredible momentum and I can't wait to keep building that future together," Byron read in a statement to the board.

Byron brings more than 13 years of experience in education, along with extensive knowledge of the Ponus community, its instructional programs and its students and staff. [Read more about Byron's experience.](#)

Roton Middle School also filled its vacant assistant principal position with a familiar face in the school. The Norwalk BOE appointed Ricquel Pratt as the new assistant principal for the middle school. She previously served as the school's Dean of Students from 2022 to 2025.

With her deep familiarity with Roton Middle School, strong experience supporting adolescent learners and demonstrated commitment to school climate, instructional leadership and student



well-being, Pratt is well prepared to continue serving the Roton community. [Read more about Pratt's experience.](#)

The board also appointed Iris Diaz as the new assistant principal for Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School (formerly named South Norwalk Elementary School) to assist Principal Randall Austin. Diaz joined Norwalk Public Schools in 2022 and has most recently served as a teacher, grade-level leader and literacy coach at Silvermine Dual Language Magnet School.

“After 19 years of teaching, I’m incredibly honored and excited to begin this new chapter in my career. I’m grateful for the experiences, mentors and colleagues who helped shape me into the educator and leader that I am today,” Diaz told the board.

Diaz is a student-centered educator and bilingual instructional leader with more than 18 years of experience in classroom instruction, instructional coaching and school leadership. [Read more about Diaz's experience.](#)

The appointments take effect immediately.