

February 23, 2021

Dear Team,

Greetings! Hoping all is well for you and yours.

I wanted to reach out and share some exciting news that last week, our Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Mr. John Fote as the principal of Woodland School. I am extremely pleased the Board supported our recommendation to add John to our Principal leadership core. As you are aware, John has been working in an interim role over the past six months and we are excited to have him remove the interim title and assume the job. While a six-month interview is never optimal, John has handled every challenge we have given him with hope, with energy and with a commitment to putting kids first. As such, we have been extremely impressed with John's leadership and it brings us great pleasure to finalize this lengthy process.

John is an East Hartford veteran educator who has spent his entire professional career serving our community. Taking a walk down memory lane, John first came to East Hartford in 1995 as a Physical Education Teacher where he started working at Mayberry School. Over the course of the years, John transitioned to East Hartford High School (EHHS) where he spent several years in the classroom working as a marketing teacher. Over the past eleven years, John has been an integral member of the EHHS team as the First Assistant Principal. John is beloved by colleagues, parents and most importantly students for his energy, his authenticity and his genuine care for others. When asked about the accomplishments he was most proud of, John quickly begins talking about the teachers he worked with and the students he has served. In addition to John's experience as an educator, he has a strong background in business and finance. He is an entrepreneur by nature and we believe this savvy will be particularly important as we continue to rely on Woodland School tuitions as a fundamental part of our budget process.

John is a champion of students and in the power of education to change lives. He is an individual who is willing to take concrete action to make a difference for those who need it most. In John's final interview with the Board, I was personally struck by how John described the importance of being open-minded to the lived experiences, values and perceptions of others. He suggested that to be culturally responsive, a leader needed to be able to notice the beauty and assets of a multi-cultural environment as well as the systemic and historical pain that has surrounded this conversation. Finally, John talked about the willingness to engage and to be someone who made a difference. I was inspired by this answer and proud to have someone with this mentality leading our school.

I am so pleased to add John to the amazing team of faculty and staff at Woodland School and look forward to the changes, improvement and work that I know they will do together. When you see John, please extend a warm East Hartford congratulations on his appointment.

With Great East Hartford Pride!



Nathan Quesnel  
*Superintendent*

East Hartford Public Schools