

TO: School Committee

FROM: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

DATE: April 22, 2024

RE: Assistant Superintendent Recommendation

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In late February, we began the search process to hire our next Assistant Superintendent for the Westwood Public Schools. It speaks volumes to the strength of the district that we had a very high quality applicant pool for this position, and our search team did a wonderful job of identifying finalist candidates, all of whom were incredibly well-qualified. Each of our finalist candidates conducted full day site visits into the district, meeting with staff and students, and culminating in a public forum. After the site visits, I solicited feedback from constituents across the district, and I thank everyone who shared their thoughts with me.

After careful deliberation, I am happy to share that I recommend that the School Committee vote to appoint Ms. Caitlin Ahern as our new Assistant Superintendent, beginning July 1, 2024, pending successful contract negotiations. Ms. Ahern is currently the Director of Elementary Education for the Lexington Public Schools, and I am excited that she will bring her depth of knowledge and expertise for teaching and learning to the Westwood Public Schools as we engage in the development of our next vision and strategy for the district.

I want to again offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the process, and particularly the members of our search team who did the initial screening and interviewing of candidates, and who passed forward an excellent slate of finalists. This team was chaired by Principal Kristen Evans, and included the following members:

- Gavin Brezski, ELA Teacher, WHS
- Sandria Chen, Student
- Katie Clarke, Math/Science Department Head, TMS
- Katy Colthart, Westwood Youth and Family Services
- Kristen Evans, Principal, Sheehan
- Steph Finegold, Parent
- Caroline Higgins, Director of Guidance
- Chris Hilton, Social Studies Department Chair, WHS; Parent
- Karlyn Lazazzero, Grade 3 Teacher, Sheehan
- Sue Maselli, Director of Student Services
- Christy McKenney, Math Teacher, TMS
- Steve Ouellette, Director of Technology, Innovation, and Learning
- Dori Parmelee, School Committee Member; Parent
- Mike Redmon, Principal, TMS
- Marisa Wyler, Elementary Literacy Coordinator