



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

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Dr. Portia Bonner Named Northampton's Superintendent of Schools

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra and the Northampton School Committee announced that Dr. Portia Bonner has been officially hired as the new Superintendent of Northampton Public Schools after being selected by the School Committee on March 27, 2023. Dr. Bonner will be succeeding Interim Superintendent Jannell Pearson-Campbell, who has worked to ensure the continuity of the school district's operations during the past year.

Dr. Bonner brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served as a high school teacher, college instructor, school principal, head of curriculum, and superintendent in multiple school districts and colleges across Massachusetts and Connecticut. Most recently, she served as the Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Bozrah Public School District in Bozrah, Connecticut. She presided over restoring Bozrah's workforce by filling 30% of district positions resulting in a fully staffed start to the school year.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Bonner to the Northampton Public Schools community," said Gwen Agna, Vice Chair and spokesperson for the Northampton School Committee. "Her experience and expertise will be invaluable as we stabilize Northampton schools' leadership, its budget, and work to refocus the commitment to providing a world-class learning environment in Northampton."

Dr. Bonner's appointment comes when the Northampton Public Schools is facing significant budgetary constraints born from the COVID-19 pandemic. As superintendent, Dr. Bonner will be tasked with finding innovative solutions to ensure that the district can continue to provide high-quality education to all students. Dr. Bonner received her Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum, and Instruction from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, a Master of Science in Biology from Purdue University, and her undergraduate degree in Biology and Sociology from Skidmore College.

"I am very excited about joining the district and working with the school committee, staff and administrators, students and caregivers, and the community of Northampton to achieve equity, close educational gaps, and provide a safe environment for every child. In line with the district's mission and beliefs, I am committed to ensuring that each and every child has equal access to opportunities and receives what they need to be successful. Working together, we can positively impact future generations."

Dr. Bonner's first day in her new role will be July 1, 2023.

For more information, contact School Committee Vice Chair Gwen Agna at gagna@northampton-k12.us.