

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

*Excellence and Equity for All Children
Equal Opportunity Employer*

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Dear Parent/s, Guardian/s and Community Members,

I hope you are well as we welcome spring. Finding the new principal of Chilmark School began this past fall, mapping out the search process with the Chilmark School Advisory Council and posting the advertisement for the position in December.

Despite Chilmark School's smaller student and staff population, the principal position is a very challenging one. I, with the help of our search committee, was charged with determining the candidate that is most ready to take on this role. Throughout the many interviews and visits, we were fortunate to have two talented finalists emerge for the position. Both finalists are gifted teachers and I believe both finalists will have very successful careers as school administrators if they choose to continue down this path.

With this said, I am pleased to announce that the new Chilmark School Principal, beginning July 1, 2024 is Kate Squire, who is currently a fourth-grade teacher at the Willard Elementary School in Concord, MA. Kate has vast experience as a teacher leader, department leader, curriculum leader, and as a change agent in her school and in her entire Concord Public School system.

As Kate expressed in her letter of interest to our search committee,

School is the first and most enduring place, outside of family systems, where children engage as members of a community. Therefore, I believe it is our charge as educators to create school cultures that celebrate the unique identities and strengths of every child and family. As the chief architect of a school's culture, my role as principal is to ensure respect and equity, through consistent modeling, active listening and authentic engagement. I recognize the awesome responsibility of preparing students to be active, informed global citizens. As principal, I will model the curiosity, joy, wonder, and perseverance essential to meaningful, lifelong learning.

As a fourth grade teacher, I have developed particular expertise in literacy unit design, curriculum integration, project-based learning, and the use of technology to differentiate and enhance student learning. I am keenly aware of the complex challenges involved in supporting the academic and social emotional needs of elementary students. For several years I have been a team teacher in fourth grade, a model of collaboration that has allowed my partner and me to delve deeply into our specialties and create a dynamic learning environment for our students. As an instructional leader, I will partner with teachers to support their professional growth while

fostering an environment that promotes collaboration and creativity as I have on my teams in Concord.

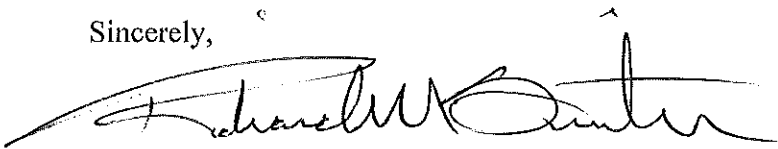
In May 2020, I was elected president of the Concord Teachers Association, a leadership role I welcomed because of my ongoing interest in supporting my colleagues and building strong partnerships. In this case, taking on the role meant immediately assuming the urgent shared work of reopening schools during COVID. That September, Concord was one of the few districts that welcomed every PreK-5 student back to school in-person, everyday. This was achieved through a close partnership between the union and district administration which allowed for open and difficult conversations. We shared a commitment to finding solutions that balanced student and family needs with health and safety. Our success required tireless effort, constant communication, creativity, flexibility, and above all, trust. Through this work I became intimately involved with the logistical work of the school and district including budget, transportation, food services, and human resources. Since that time, I have continued to work very closely with Concord's leadership team to realize our shared vision for the school community. This has included extensive work on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. I am proud of the partnership that has been forged between the teachers' union and administration during my tenure because of its positive impact on students, educators, and the wider community. The lessons I have learned and the skills I have developed through this experience will guide my work in service of the students, families and teachers at Chilmark School.

I know that many of you met Ms. Squire on her visit day in February and that you will agree that she shows great promise in leading the Chilmark School Community. My strong belief, and the opinions of many of those who met Ms. Squire is that Kate is principal ready now.

I want to express my deep gratitude to our parents, guardians, and community members for your interest, input, and commitment to the Chilmark School. I know that you will show this same level of commitment as we welcome and support our new principal of the Chilmark School, Ms. Kate Squire. Kate's success means the success and growth of our Chilmark School children and the entire school community as a whole.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,



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