



March 20, 2018

Dear Waltham Community,

I am thrilled to announce that Rochelle Nwosu has accepted the role of Dual Language (DL) principal beginning July 2, 2018.

I want to begin by thanking members of the Dual Language screening committee: Marianne Duffy, Elizabeth Ferlazzo, Cristiel Gudiel, Seth Lucas, Faith McAuliffe, Britta McNemar, Jennifer Nolasco, Sandra Quesada, Yesenia Reyes, Jeremy Robitaille, and Sandra Vasquez. These individuals dedicated significant time toward preparing for and interviewing a competitive pool of applicants. Upon completion of their process, they submitted three finalists for my review. In the finalist interviews, candidates were asked to complete a series of tasks consistent with the work of a Dual Language principal. All finalist candidates were strong. However, when the finalist screening committee considered the candidates in the face of what the Dual Language community asked for in their school leader: Rochelle Nwosu stood out as the right leader for this moment in time for the Dual Language community.

Rochelle Nwosu was born in Boston to Dominican immigrant parents. She was raised in the Dominican Republic and came to live in the states at the age of seven. She attended Boston Public Schools, had a bilingual education during her elementary school years, graduated from one of Boston Public Schools' elite exam schools and was the first in her family to graduate college. After completing her undergraduate studies at Smith College, Rochelle began her teaching career with Boston Public Schools where she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at the elementary level.

Rochelle transitioned into the role of Director of Operations at Mildred Avenue School where she led the development of systems and structures for data inquiry and action planning, behavioral management, and recruitment and selection. At the time, Mildred Avenue School was the lowest performing school in the Commonwealth and Rochelle was a member of the school leadership team that jumpstarted improvement. Today the Mildred is the 2017-2018 recipient of Boston's prestigious *School on the Move Prize* and designated as a Level 1 School.

Rochelle completed the Lynch Leadership Academy Fellowship through Boston College. As part of her experience through the Fellowship, Rochelle was a Resident Principal at the Hurley School, one of Boston's premier dual language schools. In 2015, at the conclusion of her Lynch Fellowship, Rochelle became the principal of the Mather Elementary School, the first public elementary school in North America.

As a new parent, Rochelle is prioritizing raising a bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural child. Rochelle believes that being bilingual and bicultural opens doors and creates life-changing opportunities and so it is for both professional and personal reasons that Rochelle believes it is such an honor to lead Waltham's Dual Language School.

The PTO has scheduled a meet and greet with incoming Principal Nwosu. The meet and greet is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dual Language School. This will provide an opportunity for the entire community to hear from Rochelle and for her to engage in informal dialogue with students, families and community.

I am thrilled to welcome Rochelle Nwosu to Waltham. I am even more excited for the Dual Language School. I am confident that Rochelle will collaborate with the entire community to lead our Dual Language School into the most premier in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely
Drew M. Echelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent