

PRESS RELEASE

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FROM: Brian J. Benigni, Superintendent of Schools, Berlin Public Schools

DATE: March 28, 2018

The Berlin Board of Education is pleased to have appointed **Erin McGurk** as the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at its March 26, 2018 regular Board meeting. The appointment will become effective July 1, 2018.

Dr. McGurk was presented to the Board for hire by Superintendent Brian Benigni. “We are very fortunate to have such a high caliber candidate with a solid history of experience in curriculum and instruction join our administrative team. She is exactly what Berlin needs to lead us to the next level.”

Dr. McGurk comes to Berlin after serving 12 years as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction with the Ellington Public School District, where she is recognized by her peers for leading with professionalism and vision. Prior to her time in Ellington, she worked for Central Connecticut State University as an instructor for undergraduate and graduate level courses, including *Effective Instruction*, *Assessment for Learning* and *Focus for Diversity in Education*. She also served as the director and grant manager of a collaborative between CCSU and the Hartford Public Schools, providing mentoring, coaching, and job-embedded professional development models for beginning teachers in shortage areas at all levels. She served for one year as a consultant for SERC, where she designed and implemented professional development and technical assistance for K-12 schools across Connecticut on issues related to improving instructional outcomes for students. She also served as a curriculum specialist for the West Hartford Public School District, where she began her career in public education as a special education teacher.

Dr. McGurk is respected and valued for her work throughout the State. She has served on numerous Connecticut State Department of Education advisory teams. Among the many state policy or standards documents to which she has contributed to directly, as a critical member of the writing or validation teams, are the *Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (CCT)*, the *CCT Rubric for Effective Teaching*, the *Leader Evaluation and Support Rubric*, and the *TEAM Program Performance Profiles*. She has earned several professional honors, but most recently she was awarded the *Excellence in Educational Leadership Award* from UCONN in 2017.

Dr. McGurk holds Bachelor's degrees in both Psychology and French from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned her Master's degree in Elementary and Special Education as well as her Sixth Year Certificate from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford. She attained her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University, and her Certificate in Executive Leadership from the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Since July 2017, Superintendent Benigni has known he would need to find a replacement for the assistant superintendent position he vacated. He has been serving in both roles since January 2018, when he replaced departing Superintendent David Erwin. "I have known of Erin's work and her stellar reputation. I was very excited that she was interested in discussing the opportunity in Berlin. After several conversations and subsequent interviews, I am convinced she is an exceptional candidate and the perfect choice. We are extremely fortunate to have her join our team here in Berlin!"