



Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

The Public Schools of Brookline
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March 27, 2019

Dear Coolidge Corner School Parents, Guardians and Staff,

It is my pleasure to announce that I have appointed Mrs. Jennifer Buller as the next principal of the Coolidge Corner School.

As you know, Mrs. Buller has been serving as interim co-principal of the Coolidge Corner School (CCS) this year. We have been fortunate to have Mrs. Buller as a part of the Brookline community since 2006. For eight years she taught a range of grades at Heath School. Mrs. Buller's experiences at Heath included serving on the Child Study Team, co-teaching in an elementary inclusive classroom, and curriculum and professional development work in both math and social studies. Mrs. Buller also worked closely with colleagues at Heath to develop and implement innovative cross-curricular, project-based units.

Since joining the Coolidge Corner School community in 2014, Mrs. Buller has been deeply involved in multiple complex projects, from managing the different phases of the school building project to leading the student-led portion of the school's renaming work.

Mrs. Buller has a track record of successfully guiding the Coolidge Corner School through difficult transition. She co-led CCS through the design and renovation of the Harvard Street building, the relocation of the school to that new building, and the successful operation of an elementary school in a 6-story former nursing home. Her experience in managing these challenges further demonstrates her leadership abilities.

The challenges at CCS are unique. While the school is now physically reunited in a brand new, \$120 million building, there remains significant work to be done to rebuild and reconnect a community that was divided into two school sites four years ago. During that physical separation, the CCS community also experienced something of a cultural separation: two different schedules, two different ways of operating, and two distinct professional learning plans.

As the upper and lower schools reunited in the new building this fall, the Coolidge community would have benefited from dedicated time to plan for the rejoining of these distinct communities. All energies, however, had to be turned to ensuring that the construction process was complete and that the school could operate successfully in what was still very much a construction site well into the fall. With the construction project now behind us, I have every confidence that Mrs. Buller will be able to lead the Coolidge Corner School in reconnecting the two distinct communities and renewing the school's longstanding traditions and celebrations.

The challenges that remain before the Coolidge Corner School are significant. There must be a strong and near singular focus on strengthening the fabric of the CCS community. Mrs. Buller has fought for and on behalf of the CCS community throughout every phase of the construction project. And no matter the challenge, her commitment to the school has remained steadfast and resolute. It is her

unwavering commitment to the Coolidge Corner School that gives me the confidence that Mrs. Buller is the right leader for the next phase of work at the school. As Mrs. Buller enters this new role as principal of the CCS, her entry plan will mirror the entry plan of all principals – listening, hearing, and co-creating a shared vision for the school with the input of its varied constituencies. The District will provide additional resources and supports to the school in order to facilitate this important transition work.

I want to thank everyone who has been involved throughout the principal search process. The principal search process at the Coolidge Corner School took more time than either of the other two principal searches conducted by the District this year. I used this extra time to provide additional opportunities for input from the staff, community members, and administrators to ensure that everyone who wished to share their opinions, perspective, and feedback on the process had the opportunity to do so. Based upon my experience with Mrs. Buller and the input from the staff, community members, and administrators, I am confident that Mrs. Buller has the leadership, experience, and vision to lead the Coolidge Corner School. I know that the community will unite around our collective commitment to the students and families of the school.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Buller as the next principal of the Coolidge Corner School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Bott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent