



Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

The Public Schools of Brookline

Town Hall

333 Washington Street, 5th Floor

Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

617.730.2401

March 14, 2019

Dear Baker School Staff and Families,

I am very pleased to announce Mr. Torrance Lewis as the next principal of the Edith C. Baker School. I appointed Mr. Lewis after a thorough public search process that included multiple interviews, staff and community forums, and a site visit to the W.L. Cheney Middle School in Belmont.

Currently, Mr. Lewis serves as the Head of the Upper School at the W.L. Cheney Middle School. The Upper School serves over 700 7th and 8th grade students. During his tenure, Mr. Lewis has led school-wide community building efforts, begun implementation of comprehensive social/emotional learning for students, overhauled the schedule to ensure both full access and appropriate supports for English language learners and students with disabilities, and built a comprehensive child study/academic support process.

Prior to joining the Cheney Middle School, Mr. Lewis served as vice principal of the Cyrus Peirce Middle School on Nantucket, was an interventionist in the Lexington Public Schools, taught 4th grade in Decatur, Georgia, and taught a variety of elementary and middle-level grades in both Curitiba and Brasilia, Brazil.

One of the challenges in searching for a principal for a K-8 school is that many candidates have experience in either elementary school or in middle school. In Mr. Lewis, we have a leader with strong, diverse experiences which will allow him to bring multiple, new perspectives to the leadership at Baker School.

The most impressive part of this search process was the site visit to Cheney Middle School. Joining me and Human Resources Director Lisa Richardson on the site visit were six educators from Baker School: Beth Curley, Kait Doherty, Sarah Harris, Joe Mitchell, Meredith Ritter, and Sara Zekri. During the visit, the Baker educators met with a large group of Cheney teachers. The response and feedback from the Cheney team was overwhelmingly positive. The Cheney team spoke at length of Mr. Lewis' unwavering commitment to students, staff and families. They detailed his collaborative approach to all aspects of his work, and his unyielding thoughtfulness, inclusiveness, and transparency. They described, in Mr. Lewis, the leader that the Baker School community said they were looking for when the process began.

I would like to acknowledge the committed efforts of the Baker Principal Search Committee and the many staff, parents, guardians, and students who participated in the search process. The active involvement of so many members of the community over the course of this positive and collaborative search process is what ensured its success.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Lewis as the new Principal of the Baker School. We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Lewis to Baker and to Brookline.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent