

A background image of a classroom with a white text box overlay. The classroom features a whiteboard with numbers and letters, a teacher's desk with a 'Finished' box, and students sitting at tables. The text box is white and contains the logo and title for the Brookline Public Schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of  
**BROOKLINE**

# Meet Our New Team Members



**Jose Albuquerque**  
*Director of Operations*

Jose Albuquerque (Joe) brings over a decade of experience in operations and facilities management, fiscal administration, financial analysis, staff management, workflow optimization, project management, and operational and capital budgeting. Joe holds a Master's in Business Administration from Suffolk University and a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University.

**Sarah Ladner Apollo**  
*Director of Winthrop House*

Sarah has been with BHS's Winthrop House for 14 years, having served as a Math teacher for 11 years before moving into the role of program coordinator. In the last three years, Sarah has led the move of Winthrop House onto the BHS campus, and continues to navigate the adolescent mental health crisis. As Director, she will help establish a pilot middle school Winthrop House program at Driscoll.





## **Dr. Briana Brown**

### *High School Science Curriculum Coordinator*

Dr. Briana Brown has been teaching biology and AP Environmental Science at BHS since 2010. She has previously taught undergraduates at Boston University and Lasell University. Dr. Brown has developed several new science courses for BHS, serves on the BHS Legislature, and is a member of the BHS Student Intervention Team.

## **Alvin Cooper**

### *Director of Human Resources*

Alvin Cooper brings 30 years of educational leadership, staff development and human resources experience. He has served as Executive Director of Human Resources, assistant principal, and classroom teacher. He has worked with Boston Public Schools as Senior Recruitment Manager, overseeing recruitment, hiring, and support for 137 schools, school leaders, and central office staff.







## **Margaret Eberhardt**

*Principal, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP)*

Margaret Eberhardt has been an early childhood educator and leader for 25+ years. This will be her 7th year working at BEEP. A graduate of Teachers College and St. Lawrence University, Margaret holds a MA in Curriculum and Instruction and a BS in Biology. She has served on the Milton School Committee for six years, and was a member and President of the Milton Foundation for Education.

## **Cassandra Galinauskas**

*Executive Assistant, Office of Administration & Finance*

Cassandra brings over a decade of experience in administrative support, and has demonstrated her expertise across various sectors, including non-profit higher education and private. Experienced in improving operational efficiency, project coordination, and managing executive communications, Cassandra helps coordinate department initiatives to support the District's growth.





## **Neel Gudka**

### *Communications Specialist*

Neel brings five years of experience in marketing, content creation and communications across various sectors. Originally from Mumbai, India, he has lived in Boston for the last three years. He completed his Master's degree in Digital Media Management from Northeastern University last year, where he also worked as a student employee in multiple marketing and communications roles.

## **Cristina Hernandez**

### *Assistant Director of Educational Equity*

Cristina comes with lot of experience working with students of historically marginalized backgrounds and multilingual learners. Besides leading DEIB initiatives at the James W. Hennigan K-8 School in Boston, she has taught Kindergarten students the Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Multilingual Program, and worked as an English as a Second Language (ESL) Specialist.





**Diane Johnson**  
*Director of Finance*

Diane Johnson has been serving public education since 2004 in various capacities of school business administration. She has had previous financial experience at the WGBH Educational Foundation. Diane is also an active member of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), where she served on the committee that worked to increase state aid to school districts.

**Meg McCulloch**  
*Registration and Enrollment Specialist*

Meg has a BA in English and Communications from Tulane University, and an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language and Applied Linguistics from Iowa State University. She has taught English as a Second Language for ten years around the world and in the Boston area. Most recently, she has worked as a Graduate Programs Administrator at Tufts University.







## **Melvin Merlos**

### *Employee Engagement Specialist*

Melvin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the human resources and talent acquisition space. He specializes in creating a seamless onboarding experience, checking in at various points to identify areas to improve, supporting existing employees with lane changes, and exit interviews among other things.

## **Kelsey Nash**

### *Office Manager, Office of Student Services*

Kelsey has donned many hats while working at Public Schools of Brookline for the last 7 years. She started out at the Sperber Education Center, working with K-8 Science and World Language. This was followed by a stint in the Unified Arts building at BHS. For the past 4 years, she has supported K-12 Visual Arts, Career and Tech Ed, and Nursing.





**Ashley O'Sullivan**  
*Head Clerk for Grants*

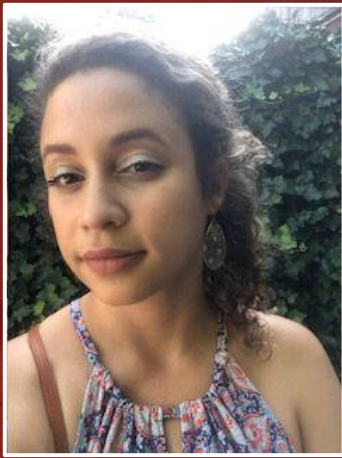
Ashley has held a strong focus on community throughout her career. She started off in the private sector with experience in property Management and marketing, and has since transitioned to the public sector at the Town of Brookline. She has worked in the central administration office for the Department of Public Works, and more recently as a Finance Assistant in the Treasurer's office.

**Christina Pentikis**  
*Talent Acquisition Coordinator*

Christina brings 7 years of experience in talent acquisition. Her role is to attract new talent and guide them through the interview and onboarding processes. Having recently transitioned from the private to the public sector, she is excited to apply her skills and knowledge, and make a positive impact at the Public Schools of Brookline.







**Tamara Gonzalez**  
*Executive Assistant, METCO*

Originally from New York City, Tamara (Tami) is a proud first generation Dominican American and Spanish speaker. She has been a teacher and para for Boston Public Schools as well as the Public Schools of Brookline. As a Prep 9 alum, METCO's mission statement is very near and dear to her heart.

**Karim Azeb**  
*BHS METCO Coordinator*

Born in Alexandria, Egypt but raised in Brooklyn, Karim is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a dual bachelor's degree in Political Science and History, a minor in Black Studies, and has a master's degree from Boston University's School of Education. He is currently pursuing a master's degree and principal licensure in Educational Leadership at Clark Atlanta University.





## **Ellen Nysten**

*Executive Chef, PSB Food Services*

Ellen Nysten comes to PSB with ten years' experience as a chef and Food Service Director in school meals. Prior to working in school meal services, she has worked as a chef in health care, several restaurants, catering and as a private chef. She specializes in scratch-cooking, student engagement, local procurement and farm-to-school.

## **Irvett Perrin**

*PSB Food Services Coordinator*

Irvett comes to PSB with over 20 years of experience in food services. From 2015 to 2024, he served as Kitchen Manager, Assistant Director, and eventually Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Salem Public Schools.





## **Rachel Craigen**

*Early Childhood Program Coordinator, BEEP*

Rachel began her career at PSB in 2006, as a Special Educator at BEEP. In 2022, she accepted a new position as Interim Childhood Program Coordinator, which transitioned into a permanent role in 2024. Rachel has a degree in Social Justice from UMass Amherst, and two Masters degrees – one in Special Education from Cambridge College and the other in Organizational Management from Endicott College.