



# Stafford Public Schools

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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Steven A. Moccio  
*Superintendent of Schools*

### Press Release

On Monday, July 22, 2019, the Board of Education officially appointed Ms. Mary Claire Manning as the next Principal of Stafford Elementary School. Ms. Manning was one of two finalists brought forward for Board of Education consideration from the 37 applicants for the position. Ms. Manning was the unanimous selection of the Board of Education following a rigorous process. Prior to the Board of Education interview, the finalists completed a process that entailed a writing sample, first round interview with a 15-member committee, second round stakeholder focus group interviews (parents, teacher/staff, administration), the completion of a performance task, and an interview with the Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Manning earned a B.A. in Psychology and Education from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and an M.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Ms. Manning comes to Stafford after having served as the principal of Highland Elementary School in Westfield, MA, for the last four years. Ms. Manning previously worked as the Assistant Principal in the same school for two years prior. Before entering administration, Ms. Manning was a Grade 5 teacher for nine years in the West Springfield Public Schools in West Springfield, MA.

Ms. Manning prides herself on creating a safe and nurturing learning environment, basing her philosophy on the need to foster and build relationships with her students, staff, and families. She has extensive experience in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and Highland Elementary School houses the district's specialized behavioral program. Ms. Manning's references applaud her collaborative engagement and creation of an Instructional Leadership Team predicated on the utilization of data. Ms. Manning's leadership provides a positive learning environment with comprehensive student support. She firmly believes in the need for continuous growth, engaging instructional practices, and student empowerment initiatives such as a Student Council. Under Ms. Manning's leadership, Highland Elementary School made steady gains in academic achievement, with the school now being a top-performer.

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools are excited to welcome Ms. Manning as the next Principal of Stafford Elementary School, as they believe her vision, experience, and leadership style are a perfect match for the Stafford Elementary School community.