

Dear Florham Park Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

We are excited to announce that following this past Monday's Curriculum Committee Meeting and an in-depth interviewing process, the Board of Education has approved the hiring of both the Briarwood School and Brooklake School principals. Mrs. Samantha Heimple has been appointed as the Briarwood School Principal and Mr. Thomas Connolly has been appointed as the Brooklake School Principal. Both Mrs. Heimple and Mr. Connolly will be available to start by mid-August! Mrs. Heimple has already been in communication with Mrs. Glaab, as well as Mr. Connolly with Dr. Cap to ensure a smooth transition for the students, staff, parents, and themselves. We invite you to come welcome our new principals to our district's family at this coming Monday's BOE meeting at 7:00pm since both principals will be present, along with their families.

A brief bio of both Mrs. Heimple and Mr. Connolly are below. Thank you in advance for your patience during this principal search process.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Cap*, Superintendent

*Mr. Nick Ritrivi*, BOE President

*Ms. Alita Das-Thomas*, BOE Vice-President

**Mrs. Samantha Heimple (Briarwood Principal)**

Mrs. Heimple was born and raised in New Jersey. She currently lives in Summit with her husband and three daughters. She attended Lehigh University where she received her BA in Psychology and Sociology. She also received her MA in Elementary Education from Rutgers University and her second MA and Principal Certification from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown.

Her 17 years of professional experience has involved working with children from birth through college with a strong emphasis and focus on Early Childhood Education. She has worked with diverse populations of students including general education, gifted, english language learners, and special education students.

Mrs. Heimple began her teaching career in Princeton, NJ as a first grade basic skills instructor and then as second grade teacher in New York City. Her next career move brought her to Maryland where she was the Director

of a Childcare and Education center. Upon her return to NJ, she began literacy staff development and subsequently teaching kindergarten in the Summit School District, Union County, before pursuing her Principal Certificate. Her last administration assignment was as an Instructional Supervisor/Vice Principal and K-5 Science Supervisor at the Glenwood Elementary School in the Millburn Township Public Schools, Essex County. She most recently served as a director in the education department at the College of Saint Elizabeth. In this role, she worked closely with local schools (including Briarwood School), students and educators to supervise, teach, and prepare the next generation of teachers for the demands of today's classrooms.

### **Mr. Thomas Connolly (Brooklake Principal)**

Mr. Thomas Connolly joins the Florham Park School District as our new Principal of the Brooklake Elementary School. Over the past four years, Mr. Connolly has served as the Assistant Principal of the Round Valley School (grades 3-6) in the Clinton Township School District, Hunterdon County. In addition to his administrative experience, Mr. Connolly brings 18 years of classroom experience as an educator in both general and special education.

Mr. Connolly has assumed many roles in his career, such as a K-4 Response to Intervention Teacher, Fourth Grade Teacher, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vice Principal, and NJ EXCEL mentor. In addition, he has chaired and participated in numerous district leadership committees, such as the Intervention and Referral Service (I&RS), Response to Intervention (RTI), New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS), and as an Education Foundation member.

Mr. Connolly received his Master of Science in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in Speech Pathology and Audiology. His Principal and Supervisor certifications were completed through the NJ EXCEL Educational Leadership Program. Mr. Connolly holds NJ standard certifications as a Principal, Supervisor, Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6, and as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Grades K-12. He resides in Washington Township with his family.

Both Mrs. Heimple and Mr. Connolly indicated that they are eager, excited, and honored to be provided with this opportunity.