

June 28, 2016

Dear Boston Latin School Community:

Today I am announcing that I have selected former Boston Public Schools (BPS) Superintendent Michael Contompasis as the interim head master of Boston Latin School and longtime BPS educator Jerry Howland as the associate head master effective July 1.

I have also appointed Alexandra Montes McNeil as instructional superintendent for Boston Latin. She will provide direct support in the areas of instruction, hiring, and budget.

Given the importance of continuing to provide strong leadership at Boston Latin, I feel it is imperative that we choose an interim leader such as Mr. Contompasis, whose deep experience, knowledge, and passion is necessary to guide BLS through this transitional process until a permanent head master is named.

Mr. Contompasis, a 1957 graduate of Boston Latin, was a biology and chemistry teacher at the school, and served as its headmaster from 1976 to 1998, during which he earned the prestigious Milken Educator award. In 1998, he was appointed chief operating officer for BPS before becoming superintendent of the district from 2005 to 2007. In recent years, Mr. Contompasis has worked as a senior field consultant for Mass Insight Education.

Mr. Howland, a 1966 BLS graduate, served as headmaster of Another Course to College, was housemaster in charge of discipline at the former Jamaica Plain High School, and was head of the math department at The English High School during his 46-year career with BPS. A longtime math teacher and an attorney who instructed students in law and in mock trials, he has earned Boston's "Golden Apple" and Massachusetts "Teacher of the Year" awards. He was also nominated as a finalist for "National Teacher of the Year." Mr. Howland grew up in the Fidelis Way housing development in Brighton and began his teaching career at the McCormack Middle School in Dorchester.

Dr. Montes McNeil, the daughter of a retired BPS principal and a first-generation Cuban American, is currently a principal leader for the Boston Public Schools. During her 23-year career at BPS, the Brighton native served as a chemistry and physics teacher, science program director and assistant head master at Boston Latin School. She also served for six years as a principal of the Mario Umana Academy in East Boston. Dr. Montes McNeil earned a bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree and doctorate from Boston College's Lynch School of Education. She is also the parent of a Boston Latin student and a Class of 2010 BLS graduate.

In the coming weeks, I will name the co-chairs of the Boston Latin School head master screening committee, which will launch a search for a permanent leader. I expect to appoint the school's 28th head master in March.



I have every confidence that Mr. Contompasis and Mr. Howland will ensure that BLS, as a historic institution, both upholds its tradition of unparalleled academic excellence and serves as a model of a safe and welcoming environment for all. They have dedicated their lives to educating students in Boston and have a thorough understanding of the unique issues currently facing Boston Latin. I ask everyone at Boston Latin to work together with Mr. Contompasis and Mr. Howland to advance the academic excellence of Boston Latin while simultaneously fostering a nurturing school culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Chang', with a long horizontal stroke above it.

Superintendent Tommy Chang