



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

V. James Marini, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent

April 6, 2021

Dear Driscoll School Families and Staff,

I am pleased to announce that, with the support of the Driscoll Interview Committee, I have appointed David Youkilis as the new permanent principal of Driscoll School.

As you will recall, we launched the search for a permanent principal in February. An interview committee comprised of parents, teachers and district educational leaders carefully reviewed applications, conducted thoughtful interviews, and recommended two finalists for the position. Following public meetings at which each of the finalists met with and answered questions from staff and families, and after reviewing all of the feedback shared with me following those meetings, it is clear that Mr. Youkilis is the best choice for the Driscoll School community.

Mr. Youkilis' commitment to the Driscoll School is long-standing. Having served as Vice Principal since 2010 and currently serving as Interim Principal for the 20-21 school year, he has been a beacon of strength and continuity in the school community during this most trying year. He has a deep knowledge of the school's traditions and strengths, yet he is also mindful of the importance of creating a vision for Driscoll's future.

The feedback I received from parents, guardians and staff for Mr. Youkilis was remarkable. Many pointed to his commitment to the school, as evidenced by his past service and his willingness to speak frankly about the challenges that lay ahead. Others remarked that he is simultaneously a school leader and a team player, who readily acknowledges the contributions of those who work alongside him. His intricate knowledge of the school - students, families, building, and schedule - means that he will begin the next school year without missing a step. Others pointed out that even though he has a long history at the school, he is unafraid of change. For example, throughout the pandemic he was always open to considering new ways of solving problems.

David Youkilis brings to this position a spirit of optimism and belief in the abilities of others. He is a person of integrity who operates from a clear sense of his own values and has the skills, energy, and personal qualities needed to lead the school into the future.

In addition to his many years of experience at Driscoll, Mr. Youkilis was an education technology specialist at the Ridley School in Brookline for nine years and was a 3rd and 4th grade teacher in the Wilmington Public Schools. He earned his Master's in Education at Lesley College and a certificate in educational leadership through Endicott College. The totality of his experience, education and commitment to Driscoll are unmatched and will serve the school in good stead for many years to come.

I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the interview committee who volunteered so much of their time to this process. Selecting a school leader is a tremendous responsibility. The time involved is substantial, and we are indebted to the committee for their careful and thoughtful work.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Youkilis on his appointment as Principal of Driscoll School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. James Marini".

V. James Marini
Interim Superintendent