



As I begin my tenure as Superintendent of Weston Public Schools, my commitment to support the long-standing excellence of our school system will remain steadfast as a guiding principle of all the work that comes before us. Our district has established a solid foundation of an exemplary educational program that encompasses a rich, diverse curriculum; a caring, personalized approach to learning; and an adherence to the core belief that all children can achieve at high levels.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to serve the children and families of Weston as part of a team of talented and dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff. The responsibility of educating the children of a community demands that as a system we constantly seek feedback from our community, rigorously examine our practices, and measure our progress - one child at a time. Our overarching goal of continuous improvement necessitates that we relentlessly monitor our own work to ensure that we are best meeting the needs of all our students.

The educational agenda of Weston Public Schools is focused on preparing our students for the global world that awaits them when they graduate from our system. Possession of the essential knowledge and skills of coursework is the core of the curriculum, but transforming that content into a framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills completes that preparation for the competitive world after high school. The district has created an aggressive plan to embed and assess those “soft skills” of collaboration, communication, innovation, and critical thinking that our students will require for their future. Moving this work forward to integrate these skill development strategies systematically within every course will set Weston students apart as capable students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and open doors for them in the future. Working with the Weston team to help lead the ongoing work in this area is compelling to me, since this initiative is cutting-edge and highly relevant to the global perspective in which our students will live, work, and play.

Beyond my involvement with this vital curriculum work this summer, I will continue to immerse myself in all matters of the district to ensure that I am informed of current issues and any challenges facing the district. Additionally, while there have been a series of events already scheduled for me to meet the community, I look forward to those informal conversations along the way and chance meetings at Peter’s Market.

I am eager for the school year to begin and for the buses to roll. A school district without children in its schools is incomplete. The learning and laughter in the classrooms assure us that our students are engaged, productive, and relishing the joy of their educational experience.

As we look to the future, I am enthusiastic and excited about the extraordinary opportunities that lie before us. In a strong partnership with the greater community of Weston, we will continue to achieve the mission of the district to support the success of each and every student.

*Colleen A. Palmer*

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