

January 30, 2017

Dear Beacon City School District Community:

I am both honored and humbled to be named the Superintendent of the Beacon City School District beginning in July. I want to take an opportunity to share a little bit about myself and to briefly discuss the transition process.

My career as an educator began in 1993 in the Baltimore City School District teaching fourth graders. My five year tenure in Baltimore was successful as I relied on hard work, relationship building, and humility. Next, I transitioned to Charlottesville, Virginia where I pursued my graduate degrees at the University of Virginia and served as an elementary principal for eleven years. For the past five years, I have served in the Ithaca City School District at the central administration level, most recently as the Deputy Superintendent for the past two years. In Ithaca, I have been fortunate to work with an engaged community on all aspects of school district leadership with a special focus on leadership development, curriculum and instruction, budget, and special education. My family is sad to leave friends behind in Ithaca and both excited and nervous about the move. Once we assured my son that our dog, our cat, and his Legos would also make the move with us he was ready to go.

While serving as a leader, I learned that trust serves as the basis for everything that is accomplished in a school, whether it is implementing project-based learning, creating a social-emotional curriculum, or designing and constructing a new wing of a building. My belief is that trust is at the core of all positive work and it is gained through listening, working with others, and building a common vision.

I am thrilled to be joining the Beacon City School District because it is a passionate and diverse community. I am committed to being a part of the vision development and strategic planning of the district moving forward and to begin my tenure by listening to and engaging with all members of the community and focusing on our most important asset, our young people.

I plan to visit Beacon several times this winter and spring to be a part of district events, vision team meetings, and planning sessions with the Board of Education and others. I will also find other ways to connect with folks prior to my official July 1st start date. Please feel free to email me at [mattlandahl\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mattlandahl(at)gmail.com) as I wish to meet you both virtually and personally in the coming months. I look forward to joining your wonderful community.

Sincerely,



Matt Landahl