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Announcing New Director of Learning Acceleration, Dana Nerenberg

April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I'm pleased to announce that Dana Nerenberg will serve as the district's first Director of Learning Acceleration. Working in the Office of Teaching and Learning, Dana will play a key leadership role in our transition back to in-person learning after more than a year of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dana moves to the central office from Sitton Elementary, where she has been principal since 2014. Becky Berry, who has served as Sitton's assistant principal, will serve as interim principal at Sitton while we begin a search for Dana's successor.

Reinventing schools will require us to foster and support family engagement and build stronger relationships with local community, business, industry partners and teacher preparation programs. In her new role, Dana will collaborate and work closely with multiple departments and community-based partners as PPS begins to reimagine summer programming, enrichment, and extended learning using an asset-based approach emphasizing authentic, equity-based, and culturally responsive practices.

I have high confidence in Dana's ability to exceed expectations in her new role. During her time as principal, Sitton established a Dual Language Immersion program and expanded the school's inclusion model for students receiving special education services to align with state standards. Through coaching in student response and aligned classroom practices, Dana empowered her team to reduce office discipline referrals by 30%, and when the school pivoted to online instruction, Sitton – a historically underserved community and Title I school – maintained high levels of engagement and learning.

Dana, who started her career as a 2nd grade teacher, has served on multiple educational boards, including currently with EdReports.org. In 2016-17, she was one of three principals nationally to serve as a School Ambassador Fellow with the U.S. Department of Education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Public Policy Studies, with an emphasis on Education Policy, from Duke University; a Masters in School Administration and Supervision from Johns Hopkins University; an Executive Masters in Leadership from Georgetown University; and an Advanced Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Maryland.

Please join me in congratulating Dana on her new role.

Luis Valentino, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer



Dana Nerenberg

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