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Announcing new Principal at Markham, Lydia Poole

July 2020

Dear Markham Community,

I am pleased to announce that Lydia Poole, a rising leader in Portland Public Schools with a track record of unifying staff, will be the next principal at Markham Elementary School.

She will succeed Shawn Garnett, who is retiring after 30 years in PPS, including the last nine as Markham principal. We thank Shawn for her service and dedication and wish her all the best.

Lydia has worked in PPS since 2008. She started her career as a teacher at Abernethy Elementary School, teaching all subjects in grades 3-5. In 2012 she became an assistant principal for PPS Head Start, and moved to Bridger K-8 and continued in that role for two years. From 2015-2017 she served as principal at Bridger K-8 School where she led the school's racial equity efforts and focused on building trust and integrity through strong communication. She translated the school's vision – called "Every Student, Every Day, Excellence in Every Way" – to make it accessible to all students and staff.

For the last three years, Lydia has served as assistant principal at Scott Elementary School, helping lead its conversion from a K-8 campus. She collaborated to write the school's mission, vision and core values and led its school climate committee in teaching values we hold most dear by conducting school-wide assemblies.

Lydia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Cascade College, and a Master of Education from Warner Pacific College. She obtained her Initial and Continuing Administrator Licensures from Portland State University.

Please join me in welcoming Principal Poole to Markham.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Lydia Poole

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