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Welcome our Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Cheryl Proctor!

July 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Cheryl Proctor, an educational leader with a track record of building opportunity and disrupting barriers to joyful learning for students, will join Team PPS as the newest cabinet leader and our next Chief Academic Officer.

She succeeds Dr. Luis Valentino, who is now the superintendent of the Coachella Valley Unified School District in Southern California. We thank Luis for his work the last 3.5 years in developing the foundational teaching and learning elements that serve as building blocks to successfully serving every PPS student.



Dr. Cheryl Proctor

Building on that foundational work, Dr. Proctor will lead the Office of Teaching and Learning, which includes College and Career Readiness, Humanities, STEAM, Early Learning and Athletics, focused on accelerating progress to provide every PPS student a "rigorous, high quality academic learning experience that is inclusive and joyful."

Cheryl comes to PPS from the School District of Philadelphia, the 18th largest public district in the country, where she has served as Assistant Superintendent. In her current role, Dr. Proctor supports high school principals to drive academic achievement through instructional improvement. She first joined the district's central office in 2016 as Executive Director of the School Improvement Planning and Evidence-based Support Office, providing leadership and guidance to school leaders in the planning and implementation of programs geared to increase student achievement, especially for Philadelphia's predominantly Black student population. Before her time in Philadelphia, Dr. Proctor enjoyed a 17-year career with Broward County Public Schools (Florida), where she served in school leadership roles for more than ten.

An accomplished academic, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication, with a minor in Advertising, from the New York Institute of Technology; a Master of Science in Special Education, with a minor in Reading, from Florida International University; and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, with a minor in Education Policy, from Florida Atlantic University.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Proctor to PPS.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D

Deputy Superintendent, Instruction & School Communities

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