



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Office of the Superintendent



July 14, 2021

Greetings to the Heywood Avenue School Community,

A panel composed of teachers, parents, a student representative, and Executive Team Members participated in the first phase of the interview process to select the new Principal of Heywood Avenue School. It was important to all that the new principal build upon the school's academic standards, positive school culture, and family atmosphere taking all to new heights. Based on the first-round interviews, the panel assisted the Superintendent as well as Executive Team with narrowing down the pool to the final two.

The second interview was held on Monday, July 12, 2021, where more intensified questions and scenarios were delineated to both final candidates. Ms. Alcantara and Dr. Powell were part of the final interview process alongside me. After much consideration from both rounds, the leadership team is confident in the final decision that I recommended to the board on the evening of July 13, 2021.

Upon my recommendation at the Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, the Orange Board of Education approved Mr. Dion Patterson to become the new Principal of Heywood Avenue School. I am excited that Mr. Patterson will join our Principal leadership team here in Orange. He brings a wealth of teaching and administrative experience gained at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Mr. Patterson will assume his position within the month of August. Once the date is solidified, I will certainly provide an update to both staff and families. In the coming weeks, he will introduce himself to all stakeholders via a Meet and Greet program that will be held at Heywood Avenue School. He is committed to working collaboratively with Heywood staff and parents to continue to move Heywood forward in excellence. Join me in welcoming him to his new home!

I would like to thank the Heywood Avenue team for their dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of students and families. To our families, thank you for your continued support of both Heywood Avenue School and the Orange Public School District.

In Partnership,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools