



# Neshaminy School District

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Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

**Date:** September 25, 2018

## **School Board of Directors approves two new Principals**

The Neshaminy School Board of Directors approved two candidates for positions as Elementary School Principal at their Public Board Meeting Tuesday, September 25, 2018.

Stephanie Washam will serve as Principal at Joseph Ferderbar Elementary School in Feasterville, and Donald Palmer at Tawanka Elementary School in Langhorne.

Ms. Washam is replacing Judy Brown, who retired as Principal at Ferderbar in August, 2018. District administrator Andre Modica is currently serving as Acting Principal at Ferderbar, and will return to his former position as Assistant Principal at Maple Point Middle School once the transition is complete. Mr. Palmer is currently serving as Acting Principal at Tawanka Elementary School, replacing Robin Klaiber who left for a Principal position with the Lower Merion School District in August. Mr. Palmer also previously served as Acting Principal at Tawanka during the 2016-2017 school year.

According to Neshaminy School District Superintendent of Schools Joseph Jones III, the selection process to fill these two positions started over the summer. A committee that included administrators, teachers, parents and School Board members reviewed qualifications and interviewed potential candidates.

“We were impressed by the quality and credentials of the all candidate,” he said. “After careful consideration and input from a variety of stakeholders, we are confident that these two individuals have the leadership capabilities, skills and personalities that will inspire excellence from their staff and students while maintaining strong, caring learning environments at their schools.”

“Mr. Palmer has already demonstrated these qualities in his previous and current roles at Neshaminy, and Ms. Washam is a welcome addition to our District leadership team.”

## **Stephanie Washam, Joseph Ferderbar Elementary School**

Stephanie Washam brings a wealth of experience to Neshaminy both in the classroom and as an administrator. She is currently the Humanities Supervisor K-5 and Federal Programs K-12 for Penridge School District. Before that she served as the State Elementary Literacy Specialist for the New Jersey Department of Education; Director of Curriculum and Instruction – Elementary and Instructional Coach and Lead Kindergarten Teacher for Scholar Academies (a Philadelphia Renaissance School); Director of Education and Educational Program Specialist at Acelero Learning in Camden, NJ. She started her career in education at Acelero Learning with the Teach for America Program as a pre-kindergarten teacher and Learning Team Leader.

Ms. Washam is a 2006 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in History. She earned her Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood Education at Montclair State University in 2008, and a Masters in Teaching, Learning and Curriculum and Principal Certification (Pre-K-12) with a concentration in Early Childhood and Reading at Drexel University in 2012.

**Donald Palmer, Tawanka Elementary School**

Donald Palmer has been with Neshaminy School District since 2006, serving in a number of teaching, support and administrative roles. These include Health & Physical Education Teacher at Poquessing Middle School; Alternative Education Teacher at The Learning Center (the district's alternative school); Graduation Project Coordinator at Neshaminy High School; Assistant Principal at Poquessing Middle School and Acting Principal at Tawanka. Mr. Palmer has also served as Principal of Neshaminy Summer School and a Fitness Specialist at Saint Mary Medical Center in Langhorne.

He is a 2001 graduate of Bucks County Community College where he earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Health and Physical Education. He graduated from Temple University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education K-12, earned a Masters of Arts in Education from Gratz College in 2011 and an Administrative I Certification K-12 from Cabrini College in 2012.



*Stephanie Washam*



*Donald Palmer*