



Harford County Public Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Lawrence Rudolph Named Edgewood Middle Principal

Educator Experienced in Helping Students Reaching Higher Standards



Dr. Lawrence O. Rudolph, 37, has been appointed principal of Edgewood Middle School, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Rudolph was appointed by the Board of Education of Harford County at its May 19, 2008 meeting in connection with an agreement reached with the Maryland State Board of Education in April to follow the “Distinguished Principal” model of addressing the needs of the school which is in its fifth year of not meeting its Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the Federal ‘No Child Left Behind’ Act.

The Alternative Governance Board, established to make recommendations for steps to be taken in helping Edgewood Middle exit the “Needs Improvement” list, had adopted the “Distinguished Principal” model from four possibilities.

Dr. Rudolph – a native of Cleveland, Ohio who was raised by a single mother in a lower income section of a Detroit, Michigan neighborhood – earned his under graduate and master’s degrees from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia and completed his doctoral degree at the University of Pennsylvania with a 3.7 GPA in an accelerated three-year program. He comes to Harford County from Hart Middle School in Rochester, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, where he has been an assistant principal for the past four years.

Dr. Rudolph began his career as an educator in the Detroit Public Schools, teaching a third grade elementary school science class and middle school eighth grade Language Arts and Social Studies for five years before being named Academy Director (Assistant Principal for grades six through eight) in Detroit’s Edison Public School Academy for two years where he also served as Interim Principal. He was an Assistant Principal and Director of the Early Childhood Center at Emerson Elementary/Middle School and Instructional Specialist at Damon J. Keith Elementary School before being named Interim Principal at Harding Elementary School – all in Detroit.

In 2004, he was named Assistant Principal at Hart Middle, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

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At Stephens Elementary, where he taught in 1999-2000, Dr. Rudolph took over a class where only six of the 28 students had a 2.0 grade point average or higher. By the end of the year, 22 students in the class had GPAs above 2.0.

At Harding Elementary, Dr. Rudolph was instrumental in helping turn around a school which had missed AYP for four consecutive years, the school achieving its academic targets during the year he served there. At Hart Middle, he oversaw student discipline for the 1,100 student school and established student intervention programs.

Dr. Rudolph said he was drawn to the challenge of the Edgewood Middle School leadership role because of his faith in the ability of students to rise to high expectations.

“Middle school is my passion – by building great relationships with students, letting them know there are those who care, they can be successful academically and socially,” he said. “I have high expectations that will afford them equitable opportunities for learning, they can and will succeed.

“Lowering expectations is not an option – that just gives students and others an excuse and we’re not going to be about making excuses,” he added. “Working with the staff and community, we’ll find a way to make a difference one student at a time.”

Dr. Rudolph said he made the decision to move to the East Coast, in part, because of his experiences in college, first in Hampton and then in Philadelphia where he flew one weekend a month and one week each summer in completing his doctoral work.

Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas said Dr. Rudolph’s varied background as an educator and his academic preparation, along with his skills at interpersonal relationships make him the ideal person for the Edgewood Middle job.

“We are pleased that the State Board of Education accepted the Alternative Governance Board’s recommendation for the ‘Distinguished Principal’ model and that Dr. Rudolph applied to be the Edgewood Middle School principal,” Dr. Haas said. “Much good work has been done at Edgewood Middle already, and we have many outstanding educators and students at the school with growing support in the community that has Edgewood Middle School primed to move ahead.”

The Alternative Governance Board had settled on the ‘Distinguished Principal’ model, in part, because current Principal Wayne Perry, a 30-year educator finishing his fourth year as Edgewood Middle’s educational leader, had announced last year his intention of retiring at the end of the school year.

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