



2020
BPS Retirement Ceremony



RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF

JANET CAREY



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2020, of Janet Carey, Principal of the Winn Brook Elementary School for the Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Carey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Boston College and a Master's degree in Educational Administration, also from Boston College. She began her career as an instructional aide at Mitchell School in Needham in 1977 and the following year, 1978, was hired as a teacher at Hillside School in Needham. In 1990 she became the Elementary Science Specialist for the Dedham Public Schools where she created and directed the Dedham Science Center to support science learning for 1,500 students in five schools. In 1998 she became the PreK-5 Curriculum Director of Math and Science for the Dedham Public Schools. We are very fortunate that this skilled educator and leader came to Belmont as the Principal of the Winn Brook School in July 2002.

Ms. Carey has led the Winn Brook School with distinction. She understood and embraced the ideas of social and emotional learning and culturally responsive teaching long before they became the tenets of best educational practice that they are today. She is the quintessential "warm demander." She sets the highest of standards while tenaciously supporting all educators and students to meet them. Her knowledge of curriculum and expertise in effective instructional practice are evident in the skillful and dedicated teaching force she has hired during her eighteen years as principal. A Winn Brook parent wrote, "Janet brings calm intelligence and grace to her interactions with parents, and she pays scrupulous and tireless attention to the multitude of matters—large and small—that impact the well-being of the Winn Brook community. She knows each and every one of her students by name, every one of them matters to her, and they all consider her to be their friend." Ms. Carey's caring leadership has positively impacted tens of thousands of students over the course of her eighteen year tenure.

Ms. Carey's skillful leadership has extended far beyond the walls of the Winn Brook School. For the last decade she has also served as the district leader for elementary curriculum, providing supervision, support, and guidance for our elementary curriculum specialists and the development of the elementary Curriculum Center that serves all elementary teachers and students, grades K through 4. She is a valued and integral member of the district Leadership Council, providing sage advice, critical feedback, and leadership in ways too numerous to list here. We are grateful for the many ways she has made the Belmont Public Schools better.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Janet Carey for her eighteen years of dedicated and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Janet for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.



RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
JOANNE DIBONA



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2020, of Joanne DiBona, School Secretary for the Winthrop L. Chenery Middle School.

Ms. DiBona has served the district since 1979, beginning as a Clerical Aide at Belmont High School. In 1980 she worked part time as a secretary in the Belmont High School Special Education Office. In 1984 she began as the Secretary to "House II" at the Chenery Middle School. In 1993 she began as a middle school secretary, taking over for the legendary Ro McPhee. 2020 marks her 41st year as an employee of the Belmont Public Schools, but not as a member of the Belmont Public Schools. That relationship dates back to 1956; she is a proud graduate of the Mary Lee Burbank Elementary School, where she spent 6 years from grades K-6, a 1962 graduate of Belmont Jr/Sr High School, as it was known in those days. Joanne's career in Belmont – both as a student and then as an employee – will watch things come full circle: from Belmont Jr/Sr High School (including Grades 7-12), to Belmont High School (including grades 9-12) and Chenery Middle School (including grades 5-8), and back to the newly proposed Belmont Middle High School (including Grades 7-12).

Ms. DiBona was successful in her role due to her incredible work ethic, attention to detail, and ability to manage countless tasks, many of them simultaneously. There have been many changes in the tasks and technology over the course of her tenure, and she approached each change with tenacious determination to figure out the best strategy to accomplish the work and achieve the desired goals for the administration. In all of her roles, and most especially at the middle level as the "public face" of Chenery, Ms. DiBona served the public graciously and kindly, and making them feel welcome no matter the question or concern that brought them to the office.

Ms. DiBona has left an indelible legacy of caring and commitment to the Belmont Public Schools. Her insights, skills, care, and exceptional kindness will be greatly missed.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Joanne DiBona for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Joanne for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.



RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF JULIA HUESTIS



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2020, of Julia M. Huestis, Mathematics Educator for the Winthrop L. Chenery Middle School.

Ms. Huestis has served the district in 1997, beginning as a long-term substitute in Grade 7 Mathematics at Chenery Middle School. Prior to her arrival in Belmont she worked as a mathematics teacher in Tucson, Arizona, and in the Peace Corps as a mathematics teacher in Malaysia. Since her arrival in 1997, she was quickly made a permanent teacher and Belmont has been lucky to have her as a part of our family for these last 23 years. It has been Belmont's great joy to have such a warm, caring, and knowledgeable mathematician among our ranks.

Ms. Huestis has been successful in her role due to her incredible work ethic, enormous heart, and ability to remain focused on what was most important: student wellbeing. Whether in the classroom as a lead teacher, assisting a teacher from the back in a support role, or working in a small group in the intervention space, Ms. Huestis gives her entire attention to the students who need her. Even students who struggle in mathematics – and, perhaps, especially students who struggle in mathematics – want to learn more about her subject area because they know she is endlessly supportive of them. They want to impress her. She is never frustrated, or short, or out of time for anyone who needs her. Ms. Huestis is a testament to the old educational adage: *"Students won't care what you know until they know you care."* All of us who have worked with Julia know that she cares deeply about us, and that care is certainly reciprocal. Even beyond the classroom she found time to dedicate to graduate study in the fields of mathematics education, anti-racist teaching, and conflict resolution & peaceable schools. With a sincere heart she has also found ways to support the METCO program, serve as a mentor to her colleagues, lead Pi Day, and coach the Math Team.

Ms. Huestis has left an unforgettable legacy of love and commitment to the Belmont Public Schools. Her knowledge, dedication, skill, and exceptional kindness will be greatly missed.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Julia Huestis for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Julia for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

We will miss you !!!