

# CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141



March 5, 2018

Dear Morse School Faculty, Staff, and Parents/Caregivers:

We are pleased to inform you that the Search Advisory Committee for the Morse School Principal has been hard at work reading resumes, interviewing candidates, and narrowing the field of candidates to four finalists. At this stage of the process, we are inviting all members of the Morse community to meet with the finalists and complete a feedback sheet indicating your impressions and observations of each candidate. The meeting schedule is on the reverse side of this letter.

The four finalists are:

**Waleska Landing Rivera** is Assistant Principal of the Fonseca Elementary School in Fall River, and previously served as Principal and Founder of the John F. Kennedy STEM Innovation/Elementary (Turnaround) School in Boston and as Assistant Principal of the Sarah Greenwood School in Boston, where she also held positions as Director of Instruction, Reading Recovery teacher, and as a first grade and special education teacher. Waleska holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Puerto Rico and Master's degree in Moderate Special Need Education from Eastern Nazarene College.

**Chad Leith** is Principal of the Horace Mann Laboratory School at Salem State University, and was formerly an Assistant Professor at Salem State and Adjunct Lecturer on Education at Harvard, in addition to holding past positions as ELL Director/T3 Coach, and teacher of English as a Second Language and Language Acquisition coach at the Henry Dearborn Middle School in Boston. Chad holds a Bachelor's degree in Government from Harvard College, Master's of Education degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Boston University, and Doctorate degree in Culture, Communities and Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Maisha Rounds** is currently completing an Ed.M degree in the School Leadership Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, during which she has performed principal internships at the Putnam Avenue Upper School and the Martin Luther King, Jr. School in Cambridge. She was previously Grade Level Leader at the Porter-Gaud School in Charleston, South Carolina, and Interim & Assistant Director and PREK-3 teacher at the Mt Sinai Christian Learning Center in that same state. She also held the positions of special education teacher at Westview Primary School and first grade teacher at Sylvia Circle Elementary School. Maisha holds a Bachelor's degree in Special Education and Master's degree in Education from Winthrop University

**Kimberley Williams** is Elementary Assistant Principal of the Edison K-8 school in Boston, and formerly held positions as Senior Officer for Equity, Program Director for Educational Equity, and Aide to Deputy Superintendent for Clusters and Schools in Boston. She also served as Special Assistant in the National Urban Fellows Program for the Chicago Board of Education, and Development Associate for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Kimberley holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services from Springfield College, Master's degree in Public Administration from Baruch College C.U.N.Y., New York, and is completing her Doctorate of Education degree at the University of Massachusetts – Boston.

Your voices are important in the search process, and you are invited to join the candidates for discussion at the times and dates indicated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KS", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Kenneth N. Salim  
Superintendent of Schools

**SCHEDULE FOR FINALIST VISITS TO THE MORSE SCHOOL**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p align="center"><b>Friday, March 9</b></p> <p><b>7:45 – 8:15 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>faculty and staff</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p><b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>parents/caregivers</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p align="center"><b>School Tour</b></p>   | <p align="center"><b>Chad Leith</b></p>             |
| <p align="center"><b>Monday, March 12</b></p> <p><b>7:45 – 8:15 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>faculty and staff</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p><b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>parents/caregivers</u> in the school auditorium</p> <p align="center"><b>School Tour</b></p>  | <p align="center"><b>Kimberley Williams</b></p>     |
| <p align="center"><b>Tuesday, March 13</b></p> <p><b>7:45 – 8:15 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>faculty and staff</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p><b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>parents/caregivers</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p align="center"><b>School Tour</b></p> | <p align="center"><b>Maisha Rounds</b></p>          |
| <p align="center"><b>Monday, March 19</b></p> <p><b>7:45 – 8:15 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>faculty and staff</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p><b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b> – Meet with <u>parents/caregivers</u> in the school Auditorium</p> <p align="center"><b>School Tour</b></p>  | <p align="center"><b>Waleska Landing Rivera</b></p> |

*Those attending these sessions are encouraged to engage with candidates in the form of an informal Q&A session, and to provide feedback regarding your impressions using the Candidate Feedback forms that will be provided at each session, or by emailing Barbara Allen, CPS Executive Director for Human Resources, at [ballen@cpsd.us](mailto:ballen@cpsd.us).*