

May 23, 2017

Dear Boston Latin Academy Community:

As you are aware, Boston Latin Academy Headmaster Troy Henninger has tendered his resignation. After several years of stellar work, building a community of shared leadership and buy-in from the entire teaching team at BLA, Headmaster Henninger stated that upon careful consideration he had decided to step down for personal reasons.

Troy described his move as more of a hiatus in his distinguished career, than a retirement. "So I am pausing my twenty-eight gloriously challenging years in public education to take time to reflect on my career learnings, write a vignette or two from across my experiences, consult where the grace of time may allow, and of course, research to gain innovative perspective on the intersection of education, the pursuit of happiness and a civil society. I am seizing this moment of my prime years, fearlessly and without future regret," he wrote in his resignation letter to me.

Both before and after sending this letter, I have had several conversations with Troy. Upon reflection, he has expressed to me a strong consideration that he would be willing to return as headmaster of Boston Latin Academy, starting in the 2018-2019 school year. He has offered to provide me a firm decision of his future plans in December, after he has had some time to do some deep thinking, traveling and pursuing of his passions.

Though clearly an unusual circumstance, I know that the importance of the work he has led to date at Boston Latin Academy, and the high esteem he is held in by the teaching team and the school community, leads me to consider this offer closely. Additionally, the leadership team Troy put in place allows us the ability to also consider a departure from our normal practice.

Thus, I am pleased to announce that I am appointing Chimdi Uchendu, the current assistant headmaster of Boston Latin Academy, as the interim headmaster of this great institution. Troy has kindly offered to work part-time next school year to provide support to Chimdi in his new role.

Chimdi, who lives in Roxbury, is a Boston native, a product of the Boston Public Schools, and an alumnus of Boston Latin School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and a Master in education from the University of Massachusetts Boston. A 10-year veteran educator with BPS, he began his career in 2006 as a math teacher, first at the then Academy of Public Service and later at Tech Boston Academy.

In 2012, Chimdi took on a leadership role with the district as the senior math program director. The following year, he was named the math director of Boston Latin Academy, serving in that position for two years before being appointed assistant headmaster in September 2015, where he has worked closely with Headmaster Henninger on the improvements we have all seen to date.

Please join me in welcoming Chimdi in his new role, and in thanking Troy for his dedicated leadership of the Boston Latin Academy. Under his stewardship, he has deeply strengthened the exam school's instructional focus, restored its luster and put it on a path of continued academic excellence. Throughout his tenure, he has made it his mission to cultivate strong personal connections to his students, staff and families.

In December of 2017, we will have clarity on the future direction of the leadership of Boston Latin Academy. If necessary at that point, we will convene a Principal Screening Committee that will be responsible for recommending finalists to me for the school's permanent headmaster position, following the process detailed in the Superintendent's Circular on the Principal and Headmaster Screening Process. Of course, that work will be done in conjunction with the Boston Latin Academy Community, and I will work actively to keep the BLA community up to speed on this process.

Please know that the Boston Latin Academy community has the full support of the school district, as we all work together to ensure the educational success for all of our students.

Sincerely,



Tommy Chang, Ed.D.  
Superintendent