

HAYNES PRINCIPAL UPDATE
APRIL 10, 2008

It is my pleasure to announce that Kim Swain has been appointed as Principal of the Haynes Elementary School beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

Ms. Swain is the highly respected Lead Teacher and Literacy Specialist at Haynes. She has served in this position for eight years. As Lead Teacher, she has worked collaboratively with current principal, Susan Carlson, in the management and leadership of the school. She earned her Bachelors of Arts degree from Carleton College, Masters of Arts from the University of Chicago and principal certification from the Boston University Schools of Education and Management.

Over sixty applications were screened for the position. After initial interviews narrowed the search to two finalists, a team of staff, parents, school committee representative and district administrators conducted an in-depth interview at the end of each candidate's visit to Haynes. Additionally, response forms from parents, staff and Sudbury administrators and curriculum specialists were reviewed, the input of a team of 5th grade students who conducted their own interview with the finalists was considered, and reference checks and additional due diligence information was processed. It became imminently clear that Kim Swain was the clear choice to be our newest principal.

Ms. Swain has demonstrated a commitment and love for the Haynes school and students. She is a thoughtful, reflective leader with a strong work ethic and a vision for the continuous improvement of the school. At a time when Haynes and SPS will be facing significant challenges from constrained resources and staffing reductions, Kim's understanding of the community and school culture, including our strengths and areas for improvement, will allow her to "hit the ground running." She has been referred to by several of her colleagues as a "teacher of teachers" and a leader whose deep understanding of teaching and learning is invaluable to young and experienced teachers alike. She possesses a presence and strength of character, and is committed to work collaboratively with staff and parents to make Haynes a better place to learn and grow.

Always revealing, the student interview clearly demonstrated Kim's strong relationship with students. Student comments such as "she makes kids feel safe", "she's confident and always ready to help kids," "she's fun but not too silly," and "she knows the school and kids and will be able to make changes sooner," are just a few of the insights that our 5th graders gleaned from their interview.

Ms. Swain has been mentored by Susan Carlson and comes to the position with Susan's strong endorsement. Kim's official start date as principal is August 1 but a transition plan is being developed that will allow her to begin to implement her entry plan beginning this summer.

We are very excited about Ms. Swain joining the administrative team of the Sudbury Public Schools. It is important to remember that Mrs. Carlson remains our principal and

leader and has our full support for her administration and leadership agenda. My gratitude goes out to Mrs. Carlson for her six years of service and dedication to the students of Haynes and Sudbury.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this important decision. We were fortunate to have two final candidates with strong credentials and qualities. While the decision is mine, it was informed by all the input I received. Thank you.

John

John R. Brackett
Superintendent