



LEONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
570 GRAND AVENUE, LEONIA, NJ 07605

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July 1, 2024

Good morning Families,

As the school community knows, Dr. Maria Barcelo-Martinez announced her retirement as Principal of Anna C. Scott Elementary School, effective January 1, 2025. The district is grateful for her 16 years of dedicated service to Leonia's children as part of a career spanning 38 years between New York and New Jersey.


Upon notification of her retirement, and subsequent acceptance by the Board of Education, the district began the search process for ACS's new principal. The position proved quite popular and the district received 70 resumes for the position. The selection process consisted of feedback/focus group opportunities with faculty, staff, families, and community members and multiple rounds of interviews.

As a result of all that time and effort, the district is proud to announce that Ms. Magdalen Neyra has been appointed by the Board of Education to be the next principal of Anna C. Scott Elementary School. An educator for the past eighteen years, Ms. Neyra has led the North Bronx School of Empowerment, a diverse and student-centered middle school, since 2014. Her focus on her students, building-based leadership, family and community outreach, and staff development expertise have forged her into the skilled and dedicated leader that she is today. Prior to assuming her principal position, she served as an ELA, Math, and Special Education teacher. Based on the hiring committee feedback, Ms. Neyra was the lead candidate from start to finish.

Ms. Neyra's official start date will be January 1, 2025, but in advance of her official start date, the district will make good use of the next six months. Ms. Neyra will attend multiple school events, participate in a community meet and greet, and meet with a variety of school community members. The goal of this time is for her to develop a full understanding of all that ACS offers the community.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Neyra to Leonia!

Go Lions,


Brian P. Gatens, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Scholarship. Citizenship. Excellence.