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Ellington Board of Education appoints Dario Soto as Crystal Lake Elementary School Principal

Mr. Soto, who brings a wealth of instructional leadership, will begin his duties August 4th

ELLINGTON, CT – At a special meeting on August 3, 2021, the Ellington Board of Education appointed Mr. Dario Soto as the principal for Crystal Lake Elementary School.

Mr. Soto completed his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Connecticut with a focus in special education, math and educational leadership. He holds multiple certifications in elementary grades PreK - 8, special education and supervision and administration. Mr. Soto



Mr. Dario Soto

comes to Ellington with a proven track record of increasing student achievement, especially in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Mr. Soto was promoted in Hartford as an instructional specialist to ensure the successful STEM redesign of a Pk-8 school. He took his talents to the Windsor Public Schools, as an instructional coach, where he was awarded teacher of the year for JFK Elementary School by his colleagues.

An interview committee composed of a parent, teachers and administrators interviewed five highly qualified candidates. Chair of the interview committee, Jennifer Hill, Principal of Windermere Elementary School, stated, "Mr. Soto is a passionate educator

who will bring his dedication to students, staff, and the community of the Ellington Public Schools. He has a genuine, personable and family-oriented approach to leadership that will be a great addition to the administrative team.”

“Mr. Soto embodies the saying - salt of the Earth. He has a love for children and their families, understanding that to serve others is a great privilege and honor. He publicly and proudly shares who he is as a person, including his journey as an individual with dyslexia. Mr. Soto believes one aspect of ourselves doesn’t define who we are, and that to love yourself and persevere through all that life has to offer opens doors to amazing experiences with others - and in this case, the Crystal Lake Family.”

Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Soto commented, “I feel fortunate and honored to join the Ellington community. I believe all learners have untapped talents and if provided the opportunity, will realize what they can offer to others. I look forward to partnering with the Crystal Lake Family to ensure we are at our best.”

Mr. Soto began his duties on August 4th. He lives in East Hartford with his wife and two sons.

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