

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**

**NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RESIGNS**

In a letter to Superintendent Gary Mathews, Newton High School Principal, Dr. Roderick Sams, resigned his position effective today, September 1, 2010. Dr. Sams indicated that his resignation was “due to a series of issues that are personal in nature.”

Dr. Sams shared his resignation with the Newton High School faculty and staff in a meeting this afternoon held at the school. Superintendent Mathews followed Principal Sams at this meeting assuring the faculty and staff that his full attention was now focused on the welfare and forward progress of Newton High School. Said Dr. Mathews, “Immediate stability for Newton High is a #1 priority. As such, and as I have shared with the Board of Education in phone calls today, Dr. Carl Skinner will serve as Interim Principal of Newton High School effective tomorrow morning, September 2, 2010. Meanwhile, please know that Dr. Sams and his family are in our thoughts and prayers.”

Previously, Dr. Skinner served as Assistant Principal at Newton High School for seven years from 2002 through 2009. At present, Dr. Skinner is the school system’s Director of Testing, Research, and Evaluation. According to Dr. Mathews, “Dr. Skinner, I believe, brings the professional expertise and relationship-building skills to ensure instructional improvement at Newton High. We are fortunate that he has accepted this interim appointment and I hope he will be a candidate for the permanent job which is entirely up to him.”

Dr. Mathews indicated that the position of Principal of Newton High School would be posted, interviews held, and the permanent Principal appointed in the very near future. “Let me assure the Newton High School community that we will do nothing less than ultimately appoint the very best leader for NHS. It’s important to the students, to their parents, to the staff, and to the school and school system’s ultimate success,” concluded the Superintendent.

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