

Head of Upper School Finalist Candidates

Jamel Adkins-Sharif is Interim Assistant Principal of the Tobin/Tobin Montessori School in Cambridge, MA. He was previously Redesign Coach at the Henry Lord Middle School in Fall River, Director of Education at the Martin L. King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence in Springfield, MA, Dean/Crisis Intervention Teacher and IEP Coordinator at the Margaret Douglass Middle School in New York City, and Grade 7-8 Math Teacher at the Gateway Intermediate School in NYC. Mr. Adkins-Sharif began his career as Teacher of Academically Gifted Students, Pre-K and Kindergarten at Cambria Academy, Ltd. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Queens College of the City University of New York, Master's degree in Special Education from Hunter College, Juris Doctorate degree from Rutgers University School of Law, Master's of Education Degree from Endicott College, and is a Doctoral candidate in Leadership in Urban Schools at the University of Massachusetts - Boston.

Mirko Chardin served as Academy Leader of the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Boston, MA and is currently Assistant Principal of the Multiple Pathways program at Randolph High School, in Randolph. He began his teaching career as a Grade 7 and 8 History Teacher at the Frederick Pilot Middle School, and was the Founder and Director of the New Hope Youth Coalition in Boston. Mr. Chardin holds a Bachelor's degree in English Writing and Literature from Wheaton College, a Master's degree in Teaching from Tufts University, and is a graduate of the Northeastern University/Center for Collaborative Education Principals Residency Network. He is a Doctoral candidate of Educational Leadership and Administration at Walden University.

Jason Del Porto is Assistant Principal of the Watertown Middle School in Watertown, MA and previously served as Assistant Principal of the Keith Middle School in New Bedford, and Dean of Students at the Carroll School in Lincoln, MA. His previous experience includes School Director of the NFI Center in Boston, Psychiatric Counselor at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Counselor and Clinical Coordinator at Wediko Childrens Services. Mr. Del Porto holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, and Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Lesley University.

Manuel Fernandez is Principal of the John F. Parker Middle School in Taunton, MA, and previously served as Assistant Principal of the Maurice J. Tobin School in Boston. His professional experience also includes Principal Fellow and Upper School Coordinator at the Young Achievers School in Boston, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Empowering Multicultural Initiatives (EMI) in Wayland, MA, and Director/Coordinator of the METCO Program for the Wayland Public Schools. Mr. Fernandez holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth, Master's in Counseling Psychology from Cambridge College, and Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Massachusetts – Boston.

Linda Lipkin is Assistant Headmaster/Director of Curriculum for Dorchester Academy in Boston, MA, and was the founding Assistant Headmaster/Director of Curriculum and Assessment for the Social Justice Academy in Boston. Ms. Lipkin was a Literacy Coach in the Boston Public Schools and taught English at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Oberlin College, and Master's degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Teresa Sanchez is Assistant Principal of the Peabody School in Cambridge, MA, and was formerly a Math Coach and middle grades Math teacher in the Cambridge Public Schools. Ms. Sanchez holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from Union College, Master's of Education degree from Cambridge College, and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership Administration from Simmons College.

Lisa Sjostrom is Principal of the Chatham Middle School in Chatham, MA, and was formerly Assistant Principal of the Oak Hill Middle School in Newton, founding Director of Helping Kids Thrive in Cambridge, and Project Director of the Harvard Eating Disorders Center at McLean Hospital. She taught English and History at the Poly Prep School in Brooklyn, NY, and was a Grade 5 English teacher at the Berkeley Carroll School. Ms. Sjostrom holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Yale University, and Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Ralph Watson is Principal of Swampscott Middle School in Swampscott, Massachusetts, and was formerly Principal of the Andrews Middle School in Medford, MA, Assistant Principal of Watertown Middle School, and Administrator of Student Support Services Grades PreK-8 for the Concord Public Schools. He began his career as Art, English, and Life Skills teacher at Bay Cove Jr. and Sr. High School in Boston, and was a Moderate Special Needs Teacher and Behavior Specialist at the Sharon Middle School in Sharon, MA. Mr. Watson holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Massachusetts College of Art, and Master's of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts – Boston.