

SEAN J. MCCARTHY

Dr. Sean J. McCarthy is an accomplished and dedicated school educator and leader with over two decades of experience. He operates under the principle that relationships are essential for success. With this cornerstone belief, Sean prides himself on being visible, accessible, and approachable. Not one to sit in his office, Sean frequently visits classrooms and offices, informally checking in with the members of his school community. Seeing people in different settings allows him to better understand and connect with each individual – a meaningful and intentional component of his role. Sean has an open-door policy, not only in letter, but in spirit. He knows that little will be accomplished if not everyone feels comfortable and safe to share their thoughts. Sean is willing to engage in conversation with all members of a school – from families and students to campus adults to the Board or district leadership. He recognizes that running a school requires consistent and direct communication and his ability to listen has been a welcome trait in each of his professional roles.

Sean has had the good fortune to experience the field of education from multiple positions and perspectives: as a student, teacher, coach, advisor, mentor, Union official, assistant principal, principal, and parent. In every instance, the previous role has informed and deepened his understanding and success in the subsequent one. Most recently, Sean served as Interim Head of School at a charter school in Salem, MA, as the educational and instructional leader for 350 students in grades K through 5 and 50 faculty and staff. He was responsible for its transition from a Horace Mann charter to a district innovation school and Sean successfully led the implementation of the district's COVID-19 remote learning plan in Spring 2020. This foray into working with the youngest grades rounded out Sean's experiences as a middle and high school English teacher, high school administrator, and adjunct faculty at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

His first appointment as a principal, in Lawrence, MA, was at a small high school in its second year under a Level IV designation and in need of rapid turnaround. **Sean knew then, as now, that real change engages real people in collaborative dynamic work.** He pursued this improvement in the best way he knew how, by carefully building trust and enlisting as many people as he could within the school to act as contributors in the change. Over the course of one year, the negative culture and climate of the school was reversed, and student learning was positively impacted. **These changes were not the result of programs, initiatives or spending but primarily built on trust, collaboration and development of teacher leaders.**

Sean knows that running a school will always be a complex endeavor, however he firmly believes that building a strong web of meaningful trusting relationships with the people within the network is the simplest way forward. Solid positive relationships, founded on communication, collaboration and integrity, are the cornerstone of a successful school. As a teacher, Sean learned early on that knowing your students well was the first step toward success, the same lesson applies as a school leader. He carries this ethos with him in all that he does.

Since 1999, **Sean's dedication to teaching and the important work in and out of the classroom helped him to develop the key skills to become an educational leader.** In Lawrence, where he spent the bulk of his career, Sean was charged with running several grade level teams, served as a NEASC reaccreditation committee chairperson, chaired Lawrence High School's faculty advisory board, was a leadership task force co-leader, and held numerous positions on the Lawrence Teachers' Union, including First Vice President

and as a member of the negotiation and grievance teams. These opportunities helped him to pursue his interest in school administration. He entered into school leadership as a high school assistant principal in 2011.

Sean's postsecondary journey started at Northern Essex Community College. He later transferred and graduated from Fitchburg State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Over the past 20+ years, Sean has furthered his education through graduate study. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree, from Emerson College, in creative writing; a Master of Arts in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English; and a Master of Education in School Leadership from Columbia University's Teachers College. In 2019, he graduated from University of Massachusetts Lowell with his Doctorate of Education in Leadership in Schooling. **A lifelong learner, Sean now continues his pursuit of knowledge through books, articles, online courses, conferences, and other professional development opportunities.**

Born and raised in Lawrence, MA, Sean has lived in the Merrimack Valley his entire life. When not teaching, leading, or learning, he enjoys spending time with his spouse and two young children, and golfing.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| Adjunct Professor in the Winston School of Education and Social Policy Merrimack College, North Andover, MA | 2016-present |
| Interim Head of School Bentley Academy Charter School, Salem, MA | 2019-2020 |
| Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Education University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA | 2019 |
| Interim Director of PALS Program Phillips Academy, Andover, MA | 2018-2019 |
| Adjunct Professor in the English Department Middlesex Community College, Lowell, MA | 2017 |
| Principal Lawrence High School for Business Management & Finance, Lawrence, MA | 2013-2016 |
| Assistant Principal Lawrence High School for Math, Science & Technology, Lawrence, MA | 2011-2013 |
| English Teacher for grades 10 through 12 Lawrence High School, Lawrence, MA | 2001-2011 |
| English Teacher for grades 7 and 8 Robert L. Frost Elementary School, Lawrence, MA | 1999-2001 |