

CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

August 20, 2021 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clifton High School Principal and Assistant Superintendent Named CLIFTON, N.J. –

Clifton Public Schools is pleased to announce that Mark Gengaro has been appointed Assistant Superintendent, and Ahmad Hamdeh has been named the principal of Clifton High School.

Gengaro, an educator in several roles with Clifton Public Schools since 2003, leaves his current position as District Administrator of Climate and Security PreK-12 to replace Mark Tietjen. Mr. Tietjen is set to retire on August 31, 2021, after serving Clifton Public Schools for 23 years. Gengaro holds a B.A. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University, a M.A. in Special Education from William Paterson University, and a M.A. in Educational Leadership from the University of Scranton.

Gengaro, appointed at the August 5, 2021, Board of Education meeting, thanked the staff and students for their support, stating, "without whom this dream would not be a reality." Mr. Gengaro went on to thank Mr. Tietjen for his years of service recognizing that he would have very big shoes to fill. Gengaro went on to say, "I will not let you down, but more importantly, I will not let the students down. To say that this is an honor is simply an understatement. I look forward to the tasks and challenges that lie ahead."

Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Superintendent of Schools, commented, "As another unprecedented school year approaches, I am pleased to announce Mark Gengaro as Assistant Superintendent at Clifton Public Schools. I am confident that Mr. Gengaro possesses the dedication and devotion to the students and staff at Clifton Public Schools in the same manner of his predecessor, Mr. Tietjen. We are grateful to Mr. Tietjen for faithfully serving our community for 23 years at Clifton Public Schools as an educator and administrator. I am confident that Mr. Gengaro will fulfill his role as Assistant Superintendent with integrity, professionalism, and vision for the future of Clifton Public Schools."

Ahmad Hamdeh, a lifelong resident of Clifton, was previously a teacher and Vice-Principal at Clifton High School. He replaces CHS Principal of four years and staff member since 1995, Mr. Michael Doktor, who is assuming a new position in Central Administration as Director of Operations and Student Services.

After a brief stint in sales, Mr. Hamdeh began his career in education as a substitute teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School before accepting a full-time position as a biology teacher at Clifton High School and ultimately as a vice-principal at Clifton High School. Hamdeh earned his B.A. in Biology from NJIT and his M.A. in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University.

"My goal is to make sure that all students have the same opportunities to succeed that I did while I was at CHS," stated Mr. Hamdeh. "Our teachers at CHS are second to none and I want to make sure that I support them to the degree needed in order for them to form positive relationships that can stay with a student forever. I am looking forward to this next chapter of my career. I cannot wait to start working for our parents, staff, and students. It's a great day to be a mustang."

"We are extremely proud to announce Ahmad Hamdeh as the Principal of Clifton High School," stated Dr. Robertozzi. "Mr. Hamdeh's roles as a former student, teacher, administrator, and parent provide him with both perspective and insight into all aspects of Clifton High School daily operations. His vested interest in our community and positive focus on each student's success are part and parcel of who Mr. Hamdeh is. I am confident that he will continue to bring out the best in Clifton High School students and staff and serve our community with dignity and respect."

Please join the Board of Education and Clifton Public Schools in welcoming Mr. Ahmad Hamdeh and Mr. Mark Gengaro to their new positions.

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