



**BATAVIA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 101**

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### **BPS101 Announces Two Elementary School Principals for 2016-17 School Year**

**February 10, 2016 (Batavia, IL)** - Batavia Public School District 101 announced today that Tim McDermott, a distinguished principal who has served as the principal of H.C. Storm Elementary School for nearly four years, has been appointed to lead Alice Gustafson Elementary School. McDermott is replacing Dr. Jan Wright, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Anne Paonessa, current assistant principal at H.C. Storm and Grace McWayne Elementary Schools and director of the District's English Learners Program, has been promoted to principal of H.C. Storm Elementary School. She will be replacing McDermott.

"We interviewed staff, parents, Board Members, and students in our comprehensive search process. Based on stakeholder feedback, we determined that the vacancies could and should be filled internally. We are confident in our selection," said BPS101 Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hichens.

In his current role as principal at H.C. Storm Elementary School, McDermott has partnered with staff, parents, and outside organizations to create and sustain a positive school climate and culture. McDermott led the installation of the H.C. Storm [Outdoor Classroom](#) and community [mosaic mural](#), facilitated the implementation of Professional Learning Communities, and established student goal setting in math and reading. Prior to his position as principal of H.C. Storm Elementary School, McDermott was a fourth-grade teacher, interventionist, and student services coordinator at Indian Prairie School District 204 for 13 years. McDermott is currently examining leadership styles that support collaborative cultures for his doctorate degree from Aurora University, and is expecting completion in spring 2016.

"I am excited for the opportunity to partner with the teachers, students, and families at Alice Gustafson Elementary School and to build on their success with student learning," said McDermott. "Alice Gustafson has such a rich tradition and I am looking forward to joining the AGS community. It has been my pleasure to serve as the principal at HCS where we have seen tremendous growth in student achievement. I will certainly miss the students, families, and staff at HCS, but I know that they will be in good hands with Ms. Paonessa."

Prior to her role as assistant principal at BPS101, Paonessa was an assistant principal at Sarah Adams Elementary School in Lake Zurich, Ill., an English Learners teacher and bilingual facilitator in Lombard

School District 44, and taught at the elementary level in Bolingbrook, Ill., and Urbana, Ill. During her career, she has presented at the state and national level on English language topics and designed and taught a graduate-level course in innovative methods for teaching English learners at the Illinois Resource Center for National Louis University.

“I am excited about my new role as principal of H.C. Storm Elementary School. I look forward to continue building the partnerships I have started this year with students, parents, staff, and the surrounding community,” said Paonessa. “HCS is truly a special place committed to student growth and learning. I am honored to have been provided this leadership opportunity.”

Both positions will be effective July 1, 2016.