

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2019**

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## **Board appoints principals for five schools: Bethesda and Graves elementary schools, Grace Snell and Summerour middle schools, and Berkmar High School**

At a special called meeting on June 3, 2019, the Gwinnett County Board of Education approved five principal appointments for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Katrina Larmond**, an assistant principal at Trip Elementary School, will become the principal of **Bethesda Elementary School**. She will fill the position currently held by Dr. Pam Williams who will be a new Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools. **Kono Smith**, an assistant principal at Hopkins Elementary, will be the new principal at **Graves Elementary School**. **Darlene Brown**, an assistant principal at Hull Middle School, will become the next principal of **Grace Snell Middle School**. Departures from the district opened the principal posts for Mr. Smith and Ms. Brown. **Dr. Natalie Looney**, an assistant principal at **Summerour Middle School** will become the next principal of that school as current principal Dorothy Jarrett transitions to the principal role at South Gwinnett High School. And, **Durrant Williams**, the Principal of GIVE Center East, has been tapped as the next principal of **Berkmar High School**. He succeeds Dr. Al Taylor who has been named as an Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools.

### **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
2019 Chairman  
District III

**Louise Radloff**  
2019 Vice Chairman  
District V

**Carole C. Boyce**  
District I

**Steven B. Knudsen**  
District II

**Everton Blair, Jr.**  
District IV

**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
CEO/Superintendent

### **THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000  
[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

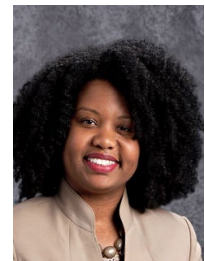
**2010 and 2014 Winner of**



### **Katrina Larmond, Principal of Bethesda Elementary School**

#### **Employment:**

2015-Present	Assistant Principal, Trip Elementary School
2014-2015	Math Coach, Annistown Elementary School
2010-2014	Teacher, Annistown Elementary School
2013-2014	Teach Gwinnett Alternative Teacher Mentor, Annistown Elementary School and Gwinnett Math Institute
2009-2010	Site Coordinator/Trainer, Centerville Elementary School
2008-2009	Teacher, Magill Elementary School
2004-2008	Teacher, Mill Creek Elementary School (Bulloch County) Teacher, Corley Elementary School



**-more-**

***Education:***

- Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education— Georgia State University
- Master’s degree in Instruction and Curriculum — Central Michigan University
- Specialist’s degree in Teacher Leadership— Mercer University

*Ms. Larmond is a graduate of Gwinnett County Public Schools’ Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program (Cohort 13).*

**Kono Smith,**

**Principal of Graves Elementary School**

***Employment:***

2013-Present Assistant Principal, Hopkins Elementary School  
2006-2013 Assistant Principal, Albany High School  
(Dougherty County Schools)  
2001-2006 Teacher,  
Alice Coachman Elementary School  
(Dougherty County Schools)  
2001-2004 Personnel Administration, United States Army/Reserves  
1997-2001 Teacher, Turner Elementary School (Dougherty County Schools)  
1990-1997 Equipment Parts Record Specialist, United States Army/Reserves



***Education:***

- Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education— Albany State University
- Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education— Albany State University
- Specialist’s degree in Elementary Education— Troy State University

*Mr. Smith is a graduate of Gwinnett County Public Schools’ Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program (Cohort 12).*

**Darlene Brown,**

**Principal of Grace Snell Middle School**

***Employment:***

Dec. 2014-Present Assistant Principal, Hull Middle School  
June 2014-Dec. 2014 Teacher, Northbrook Middle School  
June 2010-June 2014 Teacher, Hull Middle School  
Nov. 2005-June 2010 Teacher, Lilburn Middle School  
June 2003-July 2005 Senior Accountant,  
MCI Telecommunications, Inc.  
Nov. 2002-June 2003 Account Reconciliation Consultant,  
Automated Data Processing/ADP  
Aug 1998-Nov. 2002 Financial Analyst, Telecom Wireless Solutions, Inc.  
Nov. 1992-Aug. 1998 Accounts Receivable Manager, Bardi Heating and Air



***Education:***

- Associate’s degree in Business Administration, University of South Carolina
- Bachelor’s degree in Management— Kennesaw State University
- Master’s degrees in International Business and Finance — Kennesaw State University
- Specialist’s degree in Educational Leadership— Mercer University

*Ms. Brown is a graduate of Gwinnett County Public Schools' Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program (Cohort 13).*

**Dr. Natalie Looney,**  
**Principal of Summerour Middle School**

***Employment:***

2011-Present	Assistant Principal, Summerour Middle School
2008-2010	Local School Technology Coordinator, Summerour Middle School
2004-2008	Engineering Teacher, Summerour Middle School
1998-2004	Teacher, South Plantation High School and Whiddon-Rogers Education Center (Broward County Schools)



***Education:***

- Bachelor's degree in Business Education—Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Master's degree in Business Administration — Mercer University
- Doctoral degree in Education— University of Georgia

*Dr. Looney is a graduate of Gwinnett County Public Schools' Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program (Cohort 11).*

**Durrant Williams,**  
**Principal of Berkmar High School**

***Employment:***

2014- Present	Principal, GIVE Center East
2013-2014	Associate Principal, Shiloh High School
2010-2013	Assistant Principal, Berkmar High School
2006-2010	Counselor, Berkmar High School
1998-2006	Counselor, Sauntaluces High, (West Palm Beach County- FL)



***Education:***

- Bachelor's degree in Human Services — St. Thomas University
- Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling — St. Thomas University
- Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership —University of West Georgia

*Mr. Williams is a graduate of Gwinnett County Public Schools' Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program (Cohort 7).*