

New Our Sisters' School head said she is 'totally inspired' by OSS

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NEW BEDFORD — With a passion for girls' education and an interest in working with diverse populations, Sarah Herman will become head of Our Sisters' School starting July 1.

"I am excited about working with girls, girls' leadership, and the diverse group the students represent," Herman said. "I have experience and ideas about working in an educational setting that respects student interests and am interested in engaging students in the learning process."

Herman, 38, was chosen after a seven-month nationwide search conducted by the schools' leadership search committee. After the initial pool of 25 candidates was narrowed to two, Herman was unanimously chosen.

"We were delighted with the quality of candidates who were interested in the school," said Gaelen Canning, trustee and grant writer at the independent school where the mission is "to educate and inspire middle-school girls from the Greater New Bedford area to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive and challenging environment."

"She stood out because of her qualities, her commitment to girls' education and her commitment to working with a diverse population," Canning said.

Current Head of School Lisa Yates said she has enjoyed getting to know Herman over the past few months. Yates, the school head for seven years, said she is leaving to pursue new educational opportunities.

"She brings passion for the OSS mission and leadership experience to the next phase of evolution and growth at Our Sisters' School," Yates said. "We have already begun communicating about the transition as she steps into this role and I am confident that she will be an effective and inspiring Head of School for OSS in the years to come."

Herman had not heard about the school at 145 Brownell Ave. until she was approached but was impressed.

"I was totally inspired by the name because of what it represents. It's thoughtfully named, honoring courageous young women. It really appealed to me," Herman said. "I was further excited when I visited and saw the work being done at Our Sisters' School."

A Boston resident, Herman is currently assistant principal at the South Lawrence East Middle School as part of the Turnaround Leadership Academy charged by the state education board to improve the Level 4 Lawrence schools.



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She graduated from the University of New Hampshire, joined Teach for America and taught in New York City public schools. She completed her master's in elementary education in 2002 and was director of Windsor Mountain International where she managed the summer camp and 12 international travel programs. She also served as interim principal of Grades 7-9 at the Community Charter School of Cambridge. While pursuing her master's in school leadership at Harvard, she interned as principal at The Edison School, a Boston Public K-8 school.

She speaks fluent Spanish and said she is looking forward to moving to New Bedford.