THE BOSTON GLOBE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

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VANESSA LEMARCHE OUT FROM THE CORNER

When two doctors as parents, Cate McNally has grown up watching people have a positive effect on each other. Bringing people together and showing them that they can make a difference, that’s what he likes.

“Now I think about how much we can do for each other and for those who are in challenging situations,” McNally said. “It’s important to remember that we can all make a difference in the world.”

Cate McNally is the new Executive Director of the Natick Public Schools, leading a district that serves approximately 7,000 students in grades pre-K through 12.

He comes to Natick from the Lexington Public Schools, where he served as chief operating officer. McNally previously worked as an attorney in private practice and served as a vice president at Harvard University.

McNally joins the district at a time when schools are facing challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Education is a great equalizer,” McNally said. “It’s something that can lift people out of poverty and help them achieve their dreams. But it’s also something that needs to be accessible to everyone.”

The Rappaport Fellow, who is finishing her first year at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said she’s excited to be working with McNally.

“Cate is someone who has a deep passion for education and a desire to make a difference,” she said.

She added that McNally’s experience in both education and business will be valuable for the district.

“I think he has the right mix of skills and perspectives to help us navigate these challenging times,” she said.

For more information on the Rappaport Fellows program, visit bit.ly/rappaportfellows.

CHRIS MCDONALD NATURAL FIT

In addition to the pandemic, specific issues of updating regulations to allow remote learning, Kristin Roux Rappaport Fellowship with the Boston Public Schools Department of Education explored how to make school buildings safe and healthy for students and staff.

Roux is the director of the Department of Education and director of the Department of Environmental Protection.

She said that the pandemic has given schools an opportunity to work with experts in public health and safety.

“For me, the pandemic was an opportunity to work with experts in public health and safety and to learn more about how to make schools safe and healthy,” Roux said.

The Rappaport Fellowship, which aims to bring new ideas and fresh perspectives to the city’s schools, has been in existence for 20 years.

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KRAI PHIPPS ABLE TO RELATE

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JULIA SALIVE CLOSE TO THE INJUSTICE

The Boston Public Schools Department of Education is currently implementing a number of strategies to address issues of equity and accessibility in schools.

Salive, a first-year student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said she’s excited to work with McNally.

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JAIME WATSON THE WOMEN SHE KNOWS

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CATIE WHITMAN RUFFLED FEATHERS

Catie Whitman is trying to find a good balance between her job as a Rails developer and her personal life.

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 ‘Uniquely positioned’

The Rappaport Fellows offer an intense, first-hand look at the life of public policy professionals and the influence these legal professionals have on the quality of life in our local communities, state and nation.

“The brand of leadership that this program represents is the deepest belief that government was set up to do the collective big actions that we can’t do as individuals or in the private sector,” counselor W. “They’re the actions we must need if we’re to invest in our collective common, our good wealth.”

The Rappaport Fellows at Boston College Law School are run under the leadership of Daniel Kenniston, professor of law; Thomas F. Catanias Distincted Chair and Counselor, Prof. at the law school.

For more information: bit.ly/rappaportfellows.

‘COMPiled and written by DAVE CUMMINGS’