School Superintendent Martes Joins Strategies for Children Board

Strategies for Children is pleased to announce that Christopher Martes, interim superintendent of schools in Norton and former president and executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), has joined its board of directors. Strategies for Children is a leading statewide nonprofit organization that works to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade.

“As we work to build an education system that runs from cradle to college and career, Chris will provide Strategies for Children with invaluable insight from the vantage of his long career as a superintendent, principal and teacher. He knows first-hand the importance of ensuring that children enter school ready to succeed,” said Paul O’Brien, chairman of SFC’s board. “His appointment to the board is particularly timely as we advocate for the substantial new investments in high-quality early education that Governor Patrick recommends in his budget request for fiscal year 2014.”

Since retiring as superintendent of schools in Foxborough in 2011, Dr. Martes has been serving as an interim superintendent and consulting on education leadership, recruitment and community engagement. He has also served as superintendent of schools in Framingham and Medfield. MASS named him Superintendent of the Year in 2008. Dr. Martes has also been a school principal in Newton, Rye, NH, and Foxborough, where he began his teaching career.

“I am excited to be joining the board of Strategies for Children,” Dr. Martes said. “I have long admired SFC’s work to create a statewide system of high-quality early education. I particularly appreciate SFC’s focus on third grade reading and its link to early childhood. I know how important it is for children to arrive at the schoolhouse door with the language and other skills they need to be engaged and successful students. I look forward to working with the rest of the SFC board to build on the considerable progress Massachusetts has made and to ensure that every child is prepared to participate fully in our knowledge-based economy.”

Carolyn Lyons, SFC’s president and CEO, also joined the board.