The Westbury Board of Education has appointed Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase as the new Superintendent of Schools. When we started on the journey to identify our next superintendent, we stated that we were going to conduct a search for the best person available to lead us into the future. After an extensive national search that yielded more than 30 exceptional candidates from around the country, we have unanimously concluded that Dr. Chase is that person.

Dr. Chase’s experience as both a classroom teacher and an administrator, her introduction of innovative, nationally recognized academic programs, her reputation for working collaboratively, her successful management of the budget process as demonstrated by ever-increasing margins of voter approval and, most importantly, her record of consistently improving student achievement make her the right person to lead our district.

“I am excited to begin a partnership with the residents of Westbury and other stakeholders,” said Dr. Chase. “I look forward to listening to, learning from and supporting our Westbury School Family. Our children soar to heights unimaginable when we work together to support, love, inspire and empower them to actualize their dreams.”

Prior to selecting Dr. Chase, the Board solicited input from residents, students, staff members, representatives of the business community, religious leaders, and other stakeholders about the qualities and characteristics they wanted a superintendent to possess. An open letter was mailed to every household and business in Westbury in addition to over 5,000 emails and text messages that were sent to our subscribers informing them about the search process and requesting their participation.

Insights about the qualifications wanted in a superintendent were collected through three community forums, 14 focus groups and an online survey that was widely distributed in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. In the end, nearly 1,000 participants provided input about the capabilities they wanted our next superintendent to possess. We are confident Dr. Chase’s background and experiences more than satisfy those expectations.

Dr. Chase brings more than 27 years of classroom and administrative experience to Westbury. Prior to joining us she served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for two years in the Greenburgh Central School District.
before being appointed Superintendent of Schools in 2013. Along the way, she earned two masters degrees in Education as well as a doctorate in Executive Leadership.

During her tenure as Superintendent, the district’s overall performance on New York State’s 3rd - 8th grade English Language Arts and Math assessment results improved each year under her leadership. Average SAT scores also saw improvement, rising from 847 in 2014 to 1,047 in 2018 through an innovative initiative implemented by Dr. Chase and her team. Graduation rates exceeded 90 percent in each year of her tenure as Superintendent.

Dr. Chase’s record of achievement and innovation has earned recognition from educational and governmental leaders from around the state. New York State Education Department Regent Fran Wills said, “Her development of an inclusive International Baccalaureate program modeled her vision for educational engagement of civic life and diverse international communities. I have known Dr. Chase as a brilliant doctoral student and dynamic caring leader committed to the success and well-being of every child.”

The program referenced by Regent Wills is a fully accredited kindergarten to high school initiative leading to a globally recognized International Baccalaureate diploma, making Greenburgh one of only nine districts in the nation to implement International Baccalaureate standards at each school within the district. Dr. Chase also introduced a Mandarin Chinese language instruction program for students from pre-K to senior year to prepare them to compete in a global marketplace in which China is becoming increasingly significant. In addition, she instituted Spanish language instruction starting with the third grade.

Dr. Chase is also being recognized nationally for her accomplishments as a superintendent. In 2016, she was named one of the Top 25 Superintendents to Watch by the National School Public Relations Association and in 2020 she was cited by another organization as one of the Top 10 Female Superintendents in the country.

We are pleased that someone with Dr. Chase’s demonstrated record of increasing student achievement, significant professional successes and national recognition as an inspiring, progressive, innovative educational leader has agreed to join us.

THE BOARD WILL HOST A RECEPTION TO MEET AND WELCOME DR. CHASE TO OUR COMMUNITY ON SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 6:00 PM TO 7:15 PM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.