

For immediate release:

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City Schools Names Long-Time Baltimore Educator to Leadership Post

Sean Conley to join district as chief academic officer

(Baltimore, MD) – The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners tonight approved the appointment of Sean L. Conley as the district’s chief academic officer, effective August 22. His appointment fills the position left vacant by Linda Chen, who resigned earlier this month.

“As a 20-year veteran in urban education, Mr. Conley brings an incredible breadth and depth of knowledge to City Schools,” said Chief Executive Officer Sonja Brookins Santelises. “And as someone who was deeply involved in classroom teaching, school leadership, and district-level decision making in Baltimore for more than 10 of those years, he is also uniquely qualified to spearhead the development and delivery of rigorous, student-centered instruction that our city deserves.”

Mr. Conley previously served two years as an assistant superintendent in the School District of Philadelphia, most recently overseeing 22 elementary, middle, and high schools serving 11,000 students with an annual budget of \$74 million. Prior to joining Philadelphia’s leadership team, he served City Schools as executive director of principal support and accountability from 2011 to 2013, and as school support networks officer from 2013 to 2014. Mr. Conley has also served as an elementary school teacher, professional development facilitator, and principal.

Mr. Conley is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Wilmington. He received a master’s degree in administration and supervision from Notre Dame of Maryland University (then the College of Notre Dame) and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

As chief academic officer, Mr. Conley will oversee the district’s departments of Teaching and Learning, College and Career Readiness, Instructional Leadership, Specialized Services, and Strategy and Compliance.

“I am thrilled to take on this role,” said Mr. Conley. “This is an exciting time to be involved in curriculum development and instruction, with so many new opportunities and options available for engaging our students and giving them access to high-quality educational opportunities. I’m eager to return to Baltimore and proud to be able to serve the city’s students and families.”

Baltimore City Public Schools is one of the nation’s largest school districts, serving more than 83,000 students in 181 schools and programs. The district pursues excellence in education for every child at every level by focusing on quality instruction, managing systems efficiently, and sustaining a culture of excellence.