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## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

After a comprehensive national search, the Farmington Board of Education and Superintendent are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Melina Rodriguez to the position of Supervisor of Special Services commencing July 1, 2023. Melina Rodriguez will replace Ted Donahue, the current Assistant Director of Special Services, who is retiring effective June 30, 2023. Ted Donahue has spent 23 years in Farmington and we wish to express our deepest appreciation and well wishes to him for his many years of dedicated service to the Farmington school district community.

Melina Rodriguez comes to the Farmington Public Schools with a great deal of expertise in developing systems of tiered interventions, social and emotional learning curricula, and mental health supports at all levels within the Waterbury Public Schools. Ms. Rodriguez is a bilingual School Psychologist with a deep commitment to equitable, strengths-based approaches to specialized instruction and family partnerships. She is trained in the Orion-Gillingham Reading Intervention, the Science of Dyslexia, and the Social Thinking Curriculum. Ms. Rodriguez has

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been recognized for her innovative and collaborative programming and external partnerships focused on the well-being of children and the professional development of teachers and Special Services personnel.

Board Chair Liz Fitzsimmons stated, “Given Melina Rodriguez’s expertise and impressive professional background, she will most assuredly continue Farmington’s commitment to providing exemplary mental health services and supports PreK-12. In addition, she is student and family focused and will bring this focus into her daily work within our schools. We are excited to welcome Melina Rodriguez to the Farmington schools and community. She is an outstanding addition to our school district community.”

Superintendent Greider stated, “Melina brings extensive experience to the position of Farmington’s Supervisor of Special Services. Her background as a former School Psychologist with a deep knowledge of student development, social emotional well-being and acceleration of learning will enhance and advance programming throughout all of our schools. Melina’s commitment to establishing strong partnerships with students, families, faculty and staff to ensure that both the strengths and needs of students are at the center of decision-making was evident throughout the search process. Her unwavering belief that all students will achieve personal and academic excellence through a focus on Farmington’s Vision of the Global Citizen in all classrooms makes her the ideal candidate for this position. We look forward to welcoming Melina to the Farmington schools on July 1, 2023.”

Melina expressed her excitement about her appointment to the position of Supervisor of Special Services for the Farmington Public Schools stating, "I am so grateful and honored to have been invited to join this amazing community of educators and the entire Farmington community. I am excited to take part in a journey set to cultivate learning through equity and social-emotional growth at its core, empowering students to learn from one another and to take charge of the direction for their future. I humbly look forward to meeting and working with all stakeholders, students, teachers, families, leaders, and community partners. Together, we will prepare our students to be ready for the future, their future."

Melina will begin her role as the Supervisor of Special Services in Farmington effective July 1, 2023.

## **Brief Bio:**

Melina Rodriguez earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Southern Connecticut State University in 2002. She has a Master’s Degree, Sixth Year Degree, and certification in School Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University. She earned her Administrative Certificate from Sacred Heart University in 2011. Most recently, Ms. Rodriguez has served as Supervisor of

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Special Education/Pupil Services for over 10 years in Waterbury, CT. Most recently, she was appointed the Assistant Director of Special Education/Pupil Services in Waterbury. Prior to that, Ms Rodriguez was a Bilingual School Psychologist for 6 years in Waterbury.