



PHOTO BY LINDA M. BARRETT

Dr. Robert Hunt, Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools

## A Focus on Areas of Strength and Growth for Barrington 220

ONE YEAR AGO, the Barrington 220 Board of Education approved Dr. Robert Hunt as the district's new Superintendent of Schools. Though he didn't officially begin in his new role until July 1, 2021, for the past year he has been working to build relationships within the Barrington area, as the Superintendent of Schools, and as both a community member and parent in the district. Quintessential Barrington talked with Dr. Hunt about the work he has done so far and what lies ahead for Barrington 220 in 2022.

**QB:** *You've had a busy start as Barrington 220's new Superintendent of Schools! Can you tell us about how you have transitioned into your new role over the past several months?*

**RH:** Prior to beginning my tenure as Superintendent in July 2021, I provided the Board of Education with a transition plan articulating goals and activities that would take place throughout the course of my first year in the district. This included three phases.

Phase 1 took place from February of 2021 through July 1. This phase was focused on developing an understanding of organizational alignment, systems, processes, and initiatives taking place in the district while beginning to develop relationships with school and community leaders.

Phase 2 began July 1 and wrapped up in December. This phase included intentional meetings with members from various constituent groups including staff, parents, students, support organizations, and community members.

**QB:** *Based on the meetings you have had since last winter, what have you identified as the strengths of Barrington 220?*

**RH:** I believe that quality in public education is the result of a strong partnership between school districts and their communities and this is very evident in Barrington 220. Over the past year I have heard so many positive comments regarding our school district, some of which include: a staff and community that are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for students; a staff that appreciates being able to work in a place that values education and is committed to continuous growth and improvement; a true sense of community within our buildings reported by both our students and staff; and a rigorous curriculum with a variety of programming and extra-curricular activities for students to pursue their passions.

**QB:** *What have you identified as opportunities for growth?*

**RH:** As much as I would have liked to start the school year off with the pandemic behind us, that was not the case. We need to work together in the coming months to bridge the lingering divide that has emerged within our community over the past two years. Another opportunity for growth is the need for a clear and strategic focus for the district. Lastly, there is an interest among our stakeholders in evaluating the student experience at all academic levels to ensure programming and curriculum are appropriately meeting the needs of every student.

**QB:** *How do you plan to address these opportunities for growth in 2022?*

**RH:** I am now in Phase 3 of my transition plan as Superintendent of Schools. This phase is all about analyzing, collaborating, and planning to define the educational experience we want for our students. Over the next several months we will be working to create a new strategic plan for our school district. In addition, it is important to note that by the end of 2022 all our school buildings are slated to be in the construction phase of our Build 220 initiative. I am extremely excited to see how the new educational spaces that we are building will enhance the student experience. I look forward to working collaboratively with our community to continue the excellence in Barrington 220. 