

## Marguerite F. Connolly Ph.D.

### Key Qualifications

Building administrative experience K-12. Taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels as well as in private, urban, and suburban elementary and middle school settings. Supervised undergraduate and graduate students in practicum placements. Experience in curriculum development for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Extensively trained in working with children with special needs. Worked in the development, implementation and assessment of federal and state grants with universities, public schools and non-profit agencies. Experience in academic research as well as skilled in managing focused work groups to reach common goals.

**Massachusetts Certifications:** Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent all levels, Special Education Administrator all levels, Principal/Assistant Principal Prek-6, Principal/Assistant Principal 5-8, Principal/Assistant Principal 9-12, SEI Administrator Endorsed.

### Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, Boston College Lynch School of Education, Chestnut Hill, MA, Curriculum and Instruction, 2001.
- Masters of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Administration, Planning and Public Policy, 1996.
- Masters of Education, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, Severe Special Education with a concentration in emotionally and behaviorally involved students, 1991.
- Bachelors of Arts, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, Elementary & Moderate Special Needs Education, 1988.

### Relevant Professional Experience

- 2015- Present     **Director of Student Services**, Weston Public Schools, Weston MA. District-Wide administrator overseeing the continued development, implementation and evaluation of special education programming and services for students in preschool through age 22. Facilitate meetings and professional development in collaboration with other district leaders, school-based administrators and outside experts to ensure state and federal regulation compliance. Worked in partnership with the office of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to prepare and secure annual grant funding as well as support programmatic changes and fill personnel needs. Collaborated with PAC to support both educational programming for families and faculty as well as providing additional avenues for communication between the district and families.
- 2014-2015     **Principal**, Central High School, Newton Public Schools, Newton, MA. Oversee and evaluate teaching and clinical faculty at a substantially separate therapeutic educational program for students with emotional disabilities. Responsible for the communication between the school, the district and outside agencies that services students. Manage the annual re-approval submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Secondary and Elementary Education.
- 2012-2015     **Vice Principal**, Newton North High School, Newton Public Schools, Newton, MA. Worked directly with the School Principal overseeing all aspects of the administration of a comprehensive high school with over 2,000 students and 400 faculty and staff. Worked closely with special education and Department Heads implementing new Common Core and federal and state initiatives. Directed all aspects of the MCAS and PARCC at every grade level. Member of the citywide Evaluation Team reviewed and modified state evaluation program. Responsible for oversight of operations of the building, working with the custodial staff and Central Administration to ensure ongoing upkeep, maintenance and building usage.
- 2009 – 2012     **Principal**, Williams Elementary School, Newton Public Schools, Newton, MA.

Responsible for all aspects of school administration: hiring, releasing, supervision and evaluation of teachers, assistants, budget and plant management, special education and school council. Supervised the creation and implementation of The School Improvement Plan. Provided educational leadership by introducing faculty and staff to Professional Learning Communities as well as through formal and informal observations. Collaborated with the Parent Teacher Organization to raise the most funds in school history which significantly increased the technology in the school. Participated in the Elementary Joint Oversight committee, The District Data Team and the Student Placement Task Force serving the larger Newton School Community.

- 2007-2009 **Program Director, Curriculum, Assessment and Placement**, Dearborn Middle School, Boston public Schools, Boston, MA. Responsible for managing MCAS preparation, implementation, data analysis and subsequent educational interventions. Used data to guide academic goals in preparation of the development of the Whole School Improvement document. Conducted formal and informal evaluations on teachers and staff in all content areas. Maintained the safety and security of the students through the use of Cooperative Discipline. Provided on-going, consistent support to teachers in all areas of practice by collaborating and critically discussing pedagogy in practice. Developed and presented professional development seminars that align with the needs of the students and teachers in the school as well as district and state mandates.
- 2005-2007 **Assistant Principal**, O'Donnell Middle School, Stoughton Public Schools, Stoughton, MA. Oversaw the development, implementation and assessment of curriculum in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics and foreign language. Responsible for obtaining and analyzing formative and summative data to guide curricular decisions and impact student learning, including MCAS, SRI, GRADE. Coordinated scheduling of 1,000 students grade 6-8. Observed and provided written evaluations to both professional and nonprofessional status teachers. Co-director of system-wide mentor program. Worked in coordination with school administration team in the overall running of all aspects of a dynamic middle school.
- 1992-1995 **Teacher** fifth grade. Cunniff Elementary School, Watertown, MA is a socioeconomic and culturally diverse public school system. Developed, implemented and evaluated curriculum in the areas of social studies, language arts, reading, science and social skills.
- 1993-1995 **Curriculum Coordinator** for the Cunniff Elementary School in Watertown, MA. Responsible for reviewing new and currently utilized curriculum throughout the school. Liaison between faculty and Administrative Staff. Performed observations and written evaluations of substitute teachers.
- 1990-1992 **Administrator/Head Teacher** Lower School. The Gifford School, Weston, MA is a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved private school that services children who display behavioral, emotional and learning disabilities. Head teacher was responsible for managing instructional budget for Lower School; Administrating meetings: Directly supervising, training and evaluating staff members; Served as liaison between caregivers and collaborative agencies; Writing and presenting of individual educational plans; Development and implementation of educational curriculum and behavioral modification programs for students.
- 1989-1990 **Teacher**. Boston College Campus School, Chestnut Hill, MA. Teacher of severely cognitively and physically involved students in a self-contained classroom. Responsible for writing and implementing daily lessons using one-to-one and small group instructional settings.
- 1988-1989 **Teacher**. Roosevelt Elementary School, Compton, CA. Special Needs teacher of

children ranging in age from 5-12 years in a self-contained learning and behavioral class in an urban public school setting. Writing and implementation of individual educational plans for twelve children. Responsible for instruction in all curriculum areas.

### **Other Professional Experiences**

- Summer 2014     **Adjunct Professor**, Lesley University, taught *Contemporary Issues in Special Education*, graduate level introductory, overview to special education course.
- 2003- 2005     **Senior Research Associate**, Boston College Teachers for a New Era (TNE). TNE is an initiative to improve the quality of teacher education programs. In my role as Senior Research Associate I was responsible for assisting in the coordination of meetings, work initiatives, program evaluations and the research conducted on the project. This required working closely with the various constituencies involved in Boston College TNE including university-based faculty in the Lynch School of Education and the School of Arts & Sciences as well as with our public school partnership schools and districts.
- 2004- 2005     **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Coordinator**, Boston College is an NCATE certified institution. Responsibilities included the dissemination of newly initiated NCATE requirements for accreditation to faculty and staff.
- 2003-2004     **Educational Consultant**, Title II, Boston College, Garfield Elementary School, Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA. Work with administrators, school-based professionals and students to develop behavioral and academic interventions to meet individual classroom and students needs.
- 2001-2004     **Educational Consultant**, Urban Ecology Institute. Responsible for the development of curriculum following Universal Design for Learning. Provide seminar as well as on-going professional development in curriculum design, pedagogy and issues related to special education to UEI staff and participating educational professionals.
- 1999-2001     **Professional Development Planning Coordinator**, Project OPEN, a professional development district partnership between Boston College, Harvard University, Lesley University and the Watertown Public Schools. Maintained communication between institutions, managed budget, planned program activities including learning institutes and monthly meetings.
- 1997-2000     **Adjunct Professor**, Boston College Lynch School of Education. Taught core courses on the undergraduate and graduate level.
- 1996-1998     **Research Assistant**, Boston College Lynch School of Education, Dr. Marilyn Cochran-Smith. Responsibilities included data collection and analysis, literature searches, and editing of journal articles and book chapters.
- 1996-2002     **Clinical Supervisor** of graduate and undergraduate interns. Responsible for observing, instructing and evaluating interns following the current standards of the Massachusetts Department of Education.
- 1995-1996     **Research Assistant**, Harvard University, formative evaluation for the Center for Applied

Technologies (C.A.S.T.). Responsible for collecting and analyzing data on the Equal Access to Learning Project in the Boston Public Schools. The project utilizes technology and professional technological training to assist in the inclusion of children with disabilities into a general education setting.

1994-1995      **Parental outreach** program, organized a research group of six teachers and developed a program for parents which focused on the development of study and organizational skills to assist in the area of homework.

**Scholarship: Presentations/Reviewer:**

Dissertation; A Successful Failure: A Case Study Of The Experiences Of School-based Professionals in the Inclusion of Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, May, 2001. UMI Dissertation Services, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

New England Educational Research Organization, North Hampton, MA  
April, 2002  
Symposium: "The birth of a dissertation research group"

American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA  
March, 2002  
Symposium: "Qualitative classroom and school research: similarities and differences"

New England Educational Research Organization, Portsmouth, NH  
April, 2001  
Symposium: "Four qualitative dissertations: So what's your point?"

Reviewer, *Journal of teacher education*, American Association of Colleges for teacher Education, 2000-2002

Reviewer, New England Educational Research Organization, Annual Conference, December, 2003.

References furnished upon request.