

I. Educational Background

Dr. Lottie M. Watson has been a member of the Teaneck Public Schools District since September 2000. She began her teaching career in Paterson, New Jersey where she graduated from Rosa L. Parks Fine and Performing Arts High School's first graduating class in 1990. She went onto George Mason University on a full athletic scholarship with their Women's Basketball Program from 1990 to 1994 and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and Health. She returned to Paterson in 1998 after a short semi-professional career in women's basketball to teach Physical Education and Health for two years. In 2000, she was hired in Teaneck Public Schools as a Physical Education and Health teacher and coached 3 sports. Dr. Watson received her Master's degree from New Jersey City University in Urban Administration and Supervision in 2007. Over the next few years, Dr. Watson completed her +32 credits across teaching, learning, and curriculum and then earned her doctorate from Northeastern University in Teaching, Learning, Curriculum, and Educational Leadership, where she completed and published her dissertation entitled *Reducing Exclusionary Discipline From The Classroom: A Descriptive Qualitative Case Study*. Dr. Watson continues the implementation of her dissertation in the many roles she leads at Teaneck Public Schools and across the field of education.

II. Prior Work Experience in Education

Dr. Lottie M. Watson has been a member of the Teaneck Public Schools District since September 2000. Dr. Watson began her career with Teaneck Schools at Teaneck High School as a Physical Education and Health teacher. In this role, she taught traditional sport skills and strategies to improve student active participation in her department by 75%. She also introduced and taught non traditional classroom activities such Field Hockey, Rugby, and strategic games like Capture the Flag and Project Adventure which focused on team building strategies, global communication skills, and teamwork. As a PE and Health teacher, she also introduced Strength & Conditioning programs to the teams she coached. Girls' Basketball and Girls' and Boys' Volleyball all benefited from these year round training sessions improving mental health awareness, nutrition, and overall conditioning. In the classroom as a Health teacher, Dr. Watson introduced the teaching and learning of APA style writing, Nutrition and Diet Maintenance, and distance learning through an online communications platform using (at the time) AOL capabilities. After spending 10 years in the classroom, Dr. Watson was promoted to Dean of Students in 2010 and led her first class through graduation that year. In her tenure as Dean of Students, Dr. Watson wore many hats to assist the building administration in improving student achievement. As the Supervisor of Saturday Academic Enrichment (Saturday Detention), partnerships with a major radio syndicate allowed students to earn free tickets to a prestigious summer music festival, as the Anti-Bullying Specialist at Teaneck High School, the maintenance of a 90% increase in students actively reducing HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) incidences, accessing resources for support, and supporting a culture and climate of positive relationship building and conflict resolution is a constant. A major and unprecedented educational campaign implemented during Dr. Watson's tenure as Dean of Students was a fully independent fundraising campaign for the Class of 2017 through direct support from the Teaneck community, local organizations, and alumni supports chartered 3 full size coach

busses for 300+ students, teachers, and parents to the newly opened National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture in Washington, DC. This educational tour created an educational experience for Teaneck Public School students that was celebrated with a small video capturing its experiences. In May of 2018, Dr. Watson earned her doctorate in Teaching, Learning, Curriculum, and Educational Leadership from Northeastern University where she graduated with honors. Dr. Watson shares her successes with her fiancé and three children.

III. Educational Philosophy

Dr. Watson's philosophy on education focuses on the *why* and the *how* of instructional leadership (personally and professionally) that promotes student-centered learning environments that are safe, secure, and nurturing which takes into account the cultural relevance, cultural responsiveness, and cultural competence of each student. Promoting an environment that *equally* focuses on students shares that all students receive the same access to learning in the school environment to be successful, however, a learning environment that focuses on the *equity* of students ensures that each student will receive *what they individually* need to be just as successful. This requires that we see each student as their unique selves to ensure that they are equally represented in the learning environment and the student sees themselves in the overall curriculum. In this philosophy, demonstrating excellence is habitual to the success of each and every student in our district, and it will begin in our classrooms.

IV. Vision

The vision for Teaneck Public Schools District is to create a climate and culture across all schools that welcomes and celebrates diversity, differences, and change. Teaneck Public Schools and the Teaneck community recognizes strength in creativity, innovation, and collaboration and it is expressed in our district's vision and mission. Dr. Watson plans to continue moving the academic needle of our district through promoting *what* (climate) we do and *how* (culture) we do it that allows our Teaneck family to engage the *Teaneck Advantage* authentically and genuinely.

V. Photo

