



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Mary Lou Bettez with Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi at Wednesday's Coventry School Committee meeting.

# Bettez ready to help lead at Feinstein

## Named new assistant principal Wednesday

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COVENTRY — An educator for almost 25 years, Mary Lou Bettez said she fell in love with the school district when she first began her career in special education and is now very proud to be the new Assistant Principal at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, a position to which she was named at Wednesday's school committee meeting.

She spent the last year in the Principal Residency Program shadowing Dr. Arthur Lisi, principal at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School.

"It's a very intense program where you wear the shoes of your mentor," she said.

Bettez said through the years, she has seen many changes in the way children are educated and believes the most successful

# Bettez a familiar face in district, Feinstein

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outcomes begin when everyone works together in the best interest of the students.

"It's been my experience, working in this district, that the administration and teachers try to be the best they can be and are always working on developing themselves as individuals and as a team," she said.

One of the many aspects she has seen a positive change with, has been the shift with special education. Instead of the students being in an inclusive environment, students are in one population.

"I was one of the first inclusion teachers in the district," she said. "It's amazing how much better students work when they're with their peers.

Through the years, she has been an IT Coordinator, an English teacher and Language Arts Coordinator. She also teaches Literacy and Differentiated instruction at Rhode Island College.

One of the most important things she

feels she can do to help herself is to constantly challenge herself.

"I'm always trying to think of ways we can do things better," she said after her first day on the job Thursday. "I attended a conference a few years back where the guest speaker said something I'll never forget: we teach the children who show up on Monday morning. This means I have to do everything in my power to move that child forward."

Bettez described the culture in the Coventry School District as one of collaboration with helping children grow and learn.

"We're really looking forward to bringing the technology initiative to the schools and to prepare for that, we'll be attending a week-long conference in a few weeks to kick that off," Bettez explained. "All three of us — Dr. Lisi, myself and Mr. Joe Pirraglia — are focused on the same vision: how we can and will work as a team, and I'm proud to help lead that charge."

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