

**COVENTRY**

# Long-time principal says goodbye to school

Tiogue Elementary Principal Louise Seitsinger held post for 21 years

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**COVENTRY** — After working in the town for a total of 21 years, Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger is saying goodbye to Coventry and hello to North Providence as the district's new assistant superintendent. Seitsinger, a West Warwick resident, will begin work for the North Providence School Department next week and leaves behind a legacy in Coventry of promoting a positive school environment and culture.

Seitsinger was the principal at Tiogue Elementary School for almost eight years. Prior to 2010 she worked as a special education teacher and taught grades 2, 3 and 5 at Blackrock

and Western Coventry Elementary School.

In a phone interview on Friday, Seitsinger called the move bittersweet. She leaves behind years of memories in Coventry but is looking forward to making new ones in North Providence.

"I'm tearing apart my office and crying," she said. "There's a lot of my heart and soul here."

Seitsinger is a 2015 recipient of the Rhode Island National Association of Elementary School Principals' "Principal of the Year" award. During her principalship at Tiogue she focused on creating a positive learning culture and environment and over the

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course of her time there helped to increase students' state testing scores in the content areas of ELA, math and science. She was a community leader in professional development. She credits her faculty and staff for being dedicated and passionate educators.

"It's been such a pleasure and honor to be the principal here," she said. "I'm really proud of what we've done together here as a team. I'm really proud of our

culture and our climate here and of course of achievement. It really is a great place to learn."

The North Providence School Committee approved Seitsinger's appointment last week. She will replace former assistant superintendent Lisa Jacques. She hopes her successor will continue the work she started in Coventry.

"We have high quality educators, from our custodial staff on up, I just think this is a tremendous learning community and I'm really, really proud of everyone here," she said.

Seitsinger plans to attend the Coventry School Committee meeting on July 27 to say her final goodbyes.

"I feel really blessed to have had this experience here. I feel that I've grown a lot as a person and as a professional. I think these experiences will serve me well in my new position."

The school department posted the position on Tuesday, July 11 and should be filling it within the next few weeks.

*Follow Kendra Lolio on Twitter @kendralolio*