

New Washington Oak Principal Appointed by School Committee

Don Cowart II will take the reigns at Washington Oak School in the fall.

Posted by [Lauren Costa](#) | July 1, 2013



During Tuesday's meeting of the Coventry School Committee, members approved the appointment of Don Cowart II as Principal at Washington Oak Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year, effective Aug. 1.

Prior to his appointment within the Coventry School District, Mr. Cowart spent more than 10 years as a teacher in Massachusetts and New Jersey, teaching first, second, third and fifth grades. In 2005, he became the Principal of the Daniel D. Waterman School in Cranston, RI, and in July of 2008, Principal of Hope Highlands Elementary School, also in Cranston where he stayed until his appointment in Coventry.

Cowart received bachelor's degrees in History and Elementary Education from URI, as well as his Elementary Education teaching certificate. In 2005, he earned his Master's in Elementary and Middle School Administration/Principalship from Rhode Island College.

"Coventry is a cutting-edge district and a place where I feel like I can grow as a professional, and it's also a place where I can utilize my expertise at the elementary level to keep the school moving forward," he said. "I appreciate the opportunity and I am really looking forward to it."

Cowart will be replacing Washington Oak Principal Gina Gateman, whose resignation was also approved by the School Committee on Tuesday.