



# Hempstead Union Free School District

## Office of Human Resources

**Regina Armstrong**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Rodney Gilmore, Ed. D.**  
Associate Superintendent for Human Resources

We are thrilled to share the exciting news of several internal promotions and administrative changes within our district. This initiative, supported by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education, aims to enhance continuity and collaboration across various schools. The temporary restructuring plan, effective February 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, has been designed to ensure efficient management and a seamless educational transition.

At ABGS Middle School, Dr. Stephen Strachan will assume the role of Lead Principal, collaborating closely with the newly appointed Principal, Mrs. Lisaura Moreno. Together, they will oversee processes, procedures, and protocols, dedicating ample time to the instructional program. This restructuring plan is strategically crafted to create a seamless pathway for students transitioning from middle to high school.

Join us in congratulating the following administrative appointments and reassignments:

- Ms. Rozella Fibleuil - Interim Principal, Barack Obama School
- Mr. Richard Mata-Castro - Interim Assistant Principal, Jackson School
- Ms. Linda St. John - Coordinator for PYP/MYP
- Ms. Joy Thompson - Interim Dean of Students, David Patterson School

For detailed biography of each administrator, please refer to the descriptions below. We look forward to a period of continued growth and collaboration under these capable leaders.



**Lisaura Moreno**  
Principal  
ABGS Middle School

Mrs. Lisaura Moreno is the newly appointed Principal at ABGS Middle School. She has over 15 years of experience in the field of education serving underrepresented communities in New York City and suburban communities in Long Island. Prior to becoming a principal, she served as an Assistant Principal at Hempstead High School and Principal at Barack Obama Elementary School. One of her accomplishments as an AP was her collaboration with the school community to increase the graduation rate and helped the school be recognized by the NYSDE as one of the most improved schools in the state of New York. She also saw her department's Regents qualification rate rise during her leadership. In addition, Mrs. Moreno has served in a variety of roles throughout her educational career. She had been a science teacher, instructional coach, master teacher, senior achievement manager and instructional specialist in science.

Mrs. Moreno obtained her Bachelor's of Science, Masters in secondary education and administration certification from City College. Always eager to learn more, she has also earned a certification in bilingual education and taken data courses at Harvard. Mrs. Moreno will make it her goal to have conversations with families, teachers and district staff to better understand the core beliefs, values and needs of ABGS Middle School. She will also invest time and money in curriculum and resources that are engaging, relevant, and rigorous for all students academic and social-emotional success. She believes all students should have access to rich learning experiences and high-quality teaching. Ms. Moreno has spent her entire career working with and supporting diverse student populations, at-risk students, and providing leadership in turnaround schools.



**Stephen Strachan, Ed. D.**  
Lead Principal  
ABGS Middle School

With over 20 years in education and education management, Dr. Stephen Strachan has built a career on large-scale school system improvements. He has served as Principal for five schools, all within under-served urban and high-poverty districts. Today, Dr. Strachan continues to accelerate the pace of change and innovation within education, as Principal of Hempstead High School and Lead Principal of ABGS Middle School.

Dr. Strachan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from The Union Institute in Cincinnati, OH, a Master of Education in Educational Management from University of Laverne in Laverne, CA, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education- Christian Leadership. Strachan leverages his strong academic background along with diverse experience in elementary, middle, and high school systems to drive improvements and build strong relationships with academic partners, local government, and community leaders.

Dr. Strachan discovered his passion for the classroom as a teaching assistant, following his first assignment, as an elementary school cafeteria monitor. Strachan quickly took on increasing responsibility, moving from school teacher in Florida's Dade County Public Schools to Lincoln Elementary School in Compton, CA, a school district notorious for its high poverty and crime rates, with little focus on education. There, he discovered a deeper need for interactive, hands-on learning and one-on-one attention to advance student performance.

Since his arrival at Hempstead High School in 2014, Strachan has continued in his efforts, engaging and unifying parents, teachers, and the Hempstead community to drive the school and its students forward. He successfully secured a \$2M five-year Federal School Improvement Grant and \$9M in School Receivership funding from New York State Education Department (NYSED). On the curriculum side, he has expanded class offerings to include STEM, visual and performing arts, and business and entrepreneurship coursework. To further fuel students' motivation, he and his team created a College and Career Center, and provided SAT college entrance test preparatory programming, free of cost to students. In addition to increasing advanced placement classes, he also implemented new trade/career programs, along with social and emotional counseling to help and support students while they pursue their diplomas. Thanks to Dr. Strachan's efforts and the joint efforts of his teaching and advisory staff, they have successfully achieved a 5.7% increase in graduation rate, the largest, single-year gain in Nassau County and more than 25% over four years.



**Rozella Fibleuil**  
Interim Principal  
Barack Obama School

Rozella Fibleuil has currently taken on the role of Interim Principal at Barack Obama Elementary School where she has previously served as Assistant Principal. She has been a member of the Hempstead School District for 26 years serving in various capacities. She began her Hempstead journey as a 6th-grade teacher at the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School in 1997 and remained for 16 years. There, she served as the 6th Grade Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) for 3 years. Her role as SMS prepared her for the transition to Assistant Principal in 2013. Since then, she has served the students at Jackson Annex School, Barack Obama Elementary School, and Jackson School.

Along with nearly thirty years of professional experience, Ms. Fibleuil continues to utilize her educational background in Sociology and Elementary Education from Wagner College. She also obtained her Administration and Supervision degree from the College of New Rochelle to effectively serve the students, parents, and staff of the Hempstead School District.

Rozella Fibleuil recognizes the remarkable task of empowering students, staff, and parents. Through education, she creates opportunities to journey inward to find their voices and realize their dreams. In hopes one day, they can venture forward to create a future worth living and sharing with their families and community.



**Richard Mata-Castro**  
Interim Assistant Principal  
Jackson School

Mr. Richard Mata-Castro is an educator who recently assumed the role of Interim Assistant Principal at Jackson Elementary School. With a strong background in education, he brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new position. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Principal, Mr. Mata-Castro served as a bilingual MTSS interventionist, bilingual teacher, and instructional technology coach in the Hempstead Union Free School District.

Throughout his career, Mr. Mata-Castro has demonstrated a commitment to the academic success and well-being of diverse student populations. He is particularly adept at analyzing data to make informed decisions that significantly impact student learning and achievement. Working extensively with English Language Learners and at-risk students, he has implemented strategies to foster a positive and inclusive learning environment. His academic journey includes earning a Bachelor's degree in Childhood Education with a Bilingual Extension, a Master's degree in TESOL from Touro University, and an Educational Leadership certificate from The College of Saint Rose.

Known for his determination and genuine approach, Mr. Mata-Castro is dedicated to advocating for the best interests of students. One of his primary goals as Assistant Principal is to enhance parent involvement in the education of their children, recognizing the crucial role parents play in a child's academic journey. Additionally, he aims to implement data-driven initiatives that address specific educational needs, ensuring continuous improvement in student outcomes. With his comprehensive educational background and commitment to fostering a collaborative learning environment, Mr. Mata-Castro is set to make a positive and lasting impact at Jackson Elementary School.



**Linda St. John**  
IB PYP/MYP Coordinator  
Districtwide

Linda St John is a seasoned professional with a rich and varied career journey that spans from the disciplined seas of the United States Navy to the friendly skies as a Flight Attendant with Trans World Airlines and currently the role of PYP/MYP Coordinator.

After serving six years in the United States Navy, Linda began her 17-year journey of traveling around the world with Trans World Airlines before transitioning to a new role as a Child Protective Specialist. It was in this role that her commitment to safeguarding children and families began. Linda developed a passion and commitment to helping children and families which led to her next endeavor, that of serving as an advocate against domestic violence. Linda worked with the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she continued to help families. Next would be the call of education which led Linda to the classroom. It was here that she had the opportunity and privilege of shaping young minds for nearly 10 years before realizing, she could do even more as a leader.

As the Coordinator for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP), Linda embraced an international perspective in education, a student-centered framework of instruction that prepares children for the world they will inherit and ultimately participate in as global citizens. Linda's leadership journey reached new heights as she took on the role of Interim Principal at Alverta B. Gray Schultz (ABGS) Middle School, which she states has proven to be the most challenging yet rewarding position of her professional career. Whether it was counseling students, managing staff, overseeing school operations, coordinating curriculum, or most important of all providing a safe and productive learning environment for students, Linda feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve in this most important role. Through each role of diverse experience, Linda has been fueled by a dedication to service, education, and making a positive impact in the lives of others.



**Joy Thompson**  
Interim Dean of Students  
David Patterson School

Joy Thompson knew that she would be an educator from a young age. She comes from a long line of educators with the greatest influence coming from her mother who taught early childhood for 34 years. Mrs. Thompson migrated from Guyana, South America with her family and knew the important role education played in their lives and the power it provided them as learners. Upon entering high school, computers became of great interest to Mrs. Thompson, which led her to a career as a Computer Programmer Analyst for almost 10 years. During her IT career, she would consistently echo, "When I retire from my computer career I will teach." Well! So said, so done!

While on maternity leave with her first child, Mrs. Thompson learned of the NYC Teaching Fellows, applied, and was accepted. This would mark the beginning of her operating in her true purpose and passion—facilitating scholars, teachers, staff, and parents into becoming lifelong learners. With over 20 years in education, Mrs. Thompson has served as lead teacher for kindergarten and 5th grade, and a math teacher for 2nd and 3rd grades. While teaching at a charter school in Brooklyn, New York, Mrs. Thompson was promoted to the school's Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Among other responsibilities, Mrs. Thompson had oversight of the school's International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) and Leader in Me framework, which she believes is vitally important in educating the whole child as future world leaders who will greatly impact the human condition.

This work led to Mrs. Thompson joining the Hempstead School District as the District's IB PYP Coordinator starting in January 2022. In July 2023, Mrs. Thompson embraced the addition of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) to her role becoming the District's IB PYP/MYP Coordinator. Her passion for the IB programme lies within its empowerment of scholars' agency in their learning through voice, choice and ownership.

Mrs. Thompson received her Bachelor's Degree in Management Information System from Pace University, and Master's in Elementary Education from Brooklyn College. As a life-long learner, Mrs. Thompson continued her studies, receiving a Master's in Educational Leadership from The College of Saint Rose.