



Superintendent Spotlight - Dr. Kim Roberts-Morandi

Dr. Kim Roberts-Morandi has served as superintendent of Sutton Public Schools (MA) since 2022. Her educational career started as a middle school English language arts and social studies teacher. Her “why” is something we can all relate to: because every child deserves the best we can offer every day. Check out Leading Now’s Q&A with Dr. Roberts-Morandi below:

Can you share your path to becoming a superintendent?

I have been a lifelong educator. Teaching 6th and 7th grade ELA and social studies launched me into what has now been a 30-year career. After teaching, I served as principal in the same building for several years before moving to a district-level position. When a director of curriculum role opened in a district close to home, I applied for and accepted that role. That position transitioned to an assistant superintendent position and then to an acting superintendent position. That role, along with the leadership skills required during COVID, pushed me to consider the position I now hold. I am in month 10 in Sutton Public Schools and have not looked back.

What is the best part of your job?

Certainly not calling the snow days! Truly, though, I really appreciate listening to students talk about what they are learning and their sharing of how it has been taught. It’s an authentic look at what is happening day to day in our classrooms. A specific example is that Sutton High School is a first time DECA participant and we have progressed all the way to the international competition. To listen to a student talk about the impact their DECA teacher had on their project and knowing that teacher is supporting and inspiring such excellent projects is what this work is all about.

What do you consider your biggest professional success?

Leaving employers and having people tell you the door is always open for your return is what I identify as my biggest professional success. The message is that I’ve left having done good work that positively impacted students and adults. As a leader, we are always looking to raise others up and I believe that improving others will always be the best work I can do. Someday when I am no longer in Sutton, I want people to feel that I left the district in a better place than when I arrived.

What do you consider your biggest personal success?

Being a part of a very close family is something I treasure. Aside from being together for holidays and “just because” time, we make it a point to vacation together once a year. My parents, my sister, her husband and their two grown girls, my husband, and sometimes my mother’s brothers and their wives have made it a point to be together for at least a few days each year. The memories we build and can then share are irreplaceable and I love that we all look forward to it.

What is your "why?"

My “why” is simple: because every child deserves the best we can offer every day.

What one piece of advice would you like to share with other superintendents?

Never let praise go to your head or criticism go to your heart. While I am not the original author of this statement, I repeat it whenever it fits and it hangs near my desk so I can remind myself and others of this fact.

What has been most valuable to you as a member of Leading Now?

I have learned so much from this cohort, some of which has already changed my practice. The conversations have been invaluable and each session led to a new way of thinking about an issue or an adjustment in how I address something. I know that I am becoming a better leader for being a part of Leading Now.

If you would like to connect with Dr. Roberts-Morandi, you can reach her at roberts-morandik@suttonschools.net.

Want to nominate a peer for a Superintendent Spotlight? Send a quick note to Leading Now’s Program Director at programming@leadingnow.org.