



New Providence School District

Statement of Impact

Recognizing Excellence in our Staff

Candidate: Jonathan Firetto, Salt Brook Assistant Principal

From: Dr. Joseph Harvey, Director of Special Services

School: Salt Brook School

Date: 10/17/19

Tonight, we have the opportunity to celebrate an educator who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that all of our students have a meaningful school experience, even during a time when most are not in school. Mr. Jon Firetto, Assistant Principal of Salt Brook, has demonstrated the sort of strong leadership skills and willingness to serve students that make this district a special place to work.

During his time in New Providence, Mr. Firetto has served as a regular education teacher in grades 3 and 4, a special education teacher of a self-contained LLD program, and a teacher and administrator for the District's summer Extended School Year (ESY) program. The ESY program is designed to support the learning needs of those students who require additional educational programming during the summer months to prevent extreme skill regression in the new school year. During his teaching days, Mr. Firetto volunteered to work in the ESY program's ABA based preschool program, designed for 3 and 4 year olds. Though this experience proved to be different than his normal teaching assignments, he took to it with maximum effort and enthusiasm. When he became Assistant Principal he took the opportunity to serve as the administrator of this program, as he has done for the next three years.

This past summer, he was ready to help out as ESY administrator again. He had, in fact, already done much of the groundwork that is required of the program in the spring, so that it can run smoothly in the summer. However, this year we had a problem. While we had a dedicated and knowledgeable support staff to assist the students in this program, we did not have an experienced teacher to lead the way. So Mr. Firetto helped out again, and offered to forgo his administrative position in order to work again in the ABA Pre-K classroom. He chose to work with, and at times chase after, a room full of 3 and 4 year olds. He chose to roll up his sleeves and jump into the most challenging of the ESY programs, preparing individual lesson plans, collecting data, and guiding aides and related service providers. He chose to do whatever he could to ensure that all students in the ESY program received quality instruction that has helped to guide them into this school year. All while continuing to work with the new administrator of the ESY program to ensure that she was well prepared to take on the role.

New Providence School District features a relatively small staff of dedicated educators who are often called on to think "outside the box" to solve problems or serve in a capacity outside their comfort zone for the good of the students. This summer, Mr. Jon Firetto exemplified both of these traits, and demonstrated both strong professional integrity and the warmth and compassion of a true educator. Jon, on behalf of the Board of Education, Administration, and the Office of Special Services, we recognize you as a New Providence Impact Teacher, and thank you for what you have done for our students.