

Regional School Unit 57

Stephen D. Marquis, PhD.
Superintendent

86 West Road, Waterboro, Maine 04087
Tel. No. (207) 247-3221
Fax. No. (207) 247-3477

Amanda M. Doyle, EdD.
Assistant Superintendent

Colin M. Walsh, CPA
Dir. of Finance & Operations

RSU 57 prepares students for success in an ever-changing world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2026

RSU 57 Announces Marisa L. Penney as Next Principal of Massabesic High School

WATERBORO, Maine — RSU 57 is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Marisa L. Penney as the next Principal of Massabesic High School, effective July 1, 2026.

Mrs. Penney will succeed Mr. Ty Thurlow, who has served as principal of Massabesic High School for the past four years. During Mr. Thurlow's tenure, Massabesic High School experienced significant growth and progress in several key areas, including the expansion of academic course offerings, increased student participation in athletics and cocurricular programs, and expanded student access to career and technical education opportunities. RSU 57 extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Thurlow for his leadership, commitment to students, and contributions to the continued growth and success of the Massabesic High School community.

Following extensive review and consideration, Superintendent Stephen Marquis recommended Mrs. Penney for the position based upon her exceptional qualifications, proven leadership, and longstanding commitment to students and staff within RSU 57. "Mrs. Penney is a tremendous educational leader whose experience, integrity, and commitment to students make her uniquely qualified to serve as the next principal of Massabesic High School," said Superintendent Stephen Marquis. "She possesses a deep understanding of the Massabesic community, strong instructional leadership skills, and a demonstrated ability to build positive school culture while supporting both student achievement and student well-being. I am confident she will continue the

Alfred

Limerick

Lyman

Newfield

Shapleigh

Waterboro

important work already underway at MHS while helping lead the school into its next chapter of success.”

Mrs. Penney currently serves as Principal of Shapleigh Memorial School, a role she has held since 2020. Prior to that, she served as Assistant Principal at both Shapleigh Memorial School and Line Elementary School. Importantly, she also brings direct experience from Massabesic High School itself, where she previously served as Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Assessment and Dean of Students from 2013-2015, as well as an instructional coach and science teacher from 2009-2013.

Throughout her seventeen years of service within RSU 57, Mrs. Penney has demonstrated a strong commitment to instructional excellence, collaborative leadership, student support systems, and continuous school improvement. Her leadership experience includes work in trauma-informed practices, restorative approaches, strategic planning, curriculum development, assessment systems, and professional learning initiatives.

Mrs. Penney earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Maine and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of New Hampshire. She holds Maine certification as a Building Administrator as well as certifications in Secondary Life Science and Physical Science.

In addition to her professional experience, Mrs. Penney has deep personal ties to the Massabesic community. This fall, she will serve as principal to two of her three children, both scholar-athletes at Massabesic High School and former students of Shapleigh Memorial School.

“Massabesic High School has long been a place that is deeply meaningful to me both professionally and personally,” said Mrs. Penney. “I am honored by the opportunity to return to MHS and work alongside the talented staff, dedicated students, supportive families, and broader community. I look forward to working together to build upon the strong foundation already in place and continuing to support all students in preparing for success in an ever-changing world.”

RSU 57 looks forward to welcoming Mrs. Penney into her new role beginning July 1, 2026, and remains committed to supporting the continued success and growth of Massabesic High School and its students.