

Soler in UR's plan for East HS

Current principal to lead grades 10-12

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Current East High School principal Anibal Soler Jr. will keep his position at the school under the University of Rochester, while veteran administrator Marlene Blocker will become principal for grades 6-9, the college announced Monday. For Soler, it completes a wild swing in job prospects over the last year. When the New York State Education Department announced in March 2014 that it was requiring drastic change at East, it was widely assumed that Soler, its principal since 2009, would be replaced. But the UR takeover team retained him in 2014-15 for the transition, then chose him to lead grades 10-12.

"We are excited to build a team that will be responsive to the greater needs of the East community," East's deputy superintendent, Shaun Nelms, said in a statement. "Anibal and Marlene demonstrated throughout the interview process a commitment toward staff development, student achievement, family support and their own personal growth as leaders."

Blocker to head middle school

Blocker has worked in the district since 1988 and was the founding principal of Rochester Early College International High School on Genesee Street. No replacement for her has been announced there. "After being at elementary for so many years and now at the high school, I realize that middle school is a critical juncture that really needs focus," she said. "It was a very challenging decision, but I truly believe East can be a comprehensive, successful high school, and I want to be part of making it come to fruition."

She will earn her current salary, \$147,000, plus an 8 percent stipend for the longer school day at the new East High, she said.

Soler's new salary was not immediately available.

The school will be split into a middle school (grades 6-8), a high school (grades 10-12) and a ninth grade academy. Soler and Blocker will share responsibilities at the ninth grade academy.

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East High principals Anibal Soler Jr., left, and Marlene Blocker.

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