

Charles County Public Schools

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ASBO treasurer Sotomayor appointed executive director of finance and business for Charles County Public Schools

Charles County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Hill recently named Randy Sotomayor executive director of the Office of Finance and Business for the school system.

Sotomayor has been the treasurer for the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) for two years. He joined the association when he began working for Charles County Public Schools in 1996.

"It's a great organization for networking with people all around the country," Sotomayor said.

"Randy brings a calm into every environment that he enters, he articulates with an honest opinion portraying his wisdom and leadership style," said Glenn Belmore, immediate past president of ASBO and risk manager for CCPS. "He is a leader who leads by listening, learning and being responsible in all that he does. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the last few years as he been open minded, respectful and honest in all that he does."

Sotomayor, who came to CCPS as a financial analyst, has always had a head for numbers.

"I find math fascinating," he said.

Sotomayor will officially step into the role May 1 following the retirement of Paul Balides, assistant superintendent of finance and business, who has been with the school system since 1995. Sotomayor and his team will continue to support Hill's vision for the school system as much as possible, he said.

"Randy Sotomayor has the experience and the temperament to lead our Office of Finance and Business," Hill said. "His more than 30 years of experience in the field, including 20 years here in Charles County Public Schools make him a perfect fit to assume leadership of this vital part of our organization. Randy is thoughtful and deliberate in his decision making and has earned the trust of his team in the Office of Finance and Business."

"I have a good team," Sotomayor said. "I'm blessed to have a good team. We are very proud of keeping a clean audit. We've had a clean audit for four years straight and we really want to achieve five years of a clean audit."

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., Sotomayor and his family moved to New Jersey when he was in the sixth grade. Attending school in the Penns Grove — Carneys Point school district, Sotomayor took advanced math classes.

"I was definitely a geek," he said. "I loved calculus."

His parents instilled in him the value of education, while teachers kept his interests sparked.

“I love math because I had teachers who were great teachers,” Sotomayor said. He remembered his high school calculus teacher Mr. Helms who was supportive, funny and who made equations simple.

Graduating from Drexel University in 1984, Sotomayor worked as a budget officer with American University in Washington, D.C. After 10 years at American, he went to Indiana University Bloomington where he was offered a fellowship by the Commission for Higher Education. He earned his master’s of science in education at Indiana and after 12 years of getting the college perspective, he was interested in working for a school system that was focused on prekindergarten through 12th grade students.

Balides, a colleague from American, called asking if he wanted to come to Charles County and be a member of the finance team.

“I knew he had the skills and personality to help me accomplish the things that needed to be done,” Balides said. “A lot of the work at the time was replicating and refining things that I had developed at AU, and he was someone I could trust to get it done.”

Sotomayor had one major request when he arrived in Charles County in the late 1990s. He would need a new computer. Technology had just started to peek its way into offices, homes and schools and Sotomayor wanted to be as cutting edge as green text on a black screen would allow.

Sotomayor likes seeing science, technology, engineering and mathematics — STEM — programs flourish in CCPS. With the opening of James E. Richmond Science and Technology Center at St. Charles High School providing a “wow factor for the kids,” maybe more will go into STEM fields. “Mars is not as far away as we think,” Sotomayor said.

“Randy will bring an element of continuity, experience and history, which is extremely useful in an organization undergoing change,” Balides said. “He is well thought of by his peers within and outside the system. He already has a good relationship with the finance staff, who are all very experienced and perform at a high level.”

Sotomayor and his wife Arden, director of special education with CCPS, were married in 2005. The couple has a basset hound, Bogey. They like to say they have “26,000 kids.”

Charles County Public Schools provides 26,300 students in grades prekindergarten through 12 with an academically challenging education. Located in Southern Maryland, Charles County Public Schools has 36 schools that offer a technologically advanced, progressive and high quality education that builds character, equips for leadership and prepares students for life, careers and higher education.

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