



## Ljuba Marsh appointed Executive Director National search finds candidate close to home

Following a two-year, intensive nationwide search, the new Executive Director of Berkshire Hills Music Academy was found...just a few miles away. In April, the Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Ljuba Marsh, M.Ed., co-founder of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School in South Hadley, as the Academy's new Executive Director.

For 30 years, Ms. Marsh has been a leader in innovative educational programs. Twelve years ago, Ms. Marsh co-founded the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) in South Hadley, which has grown to serve 400 students from 60 communities. She created the school, set systems in place and set curriculum design in place. Ms. Marsh has been actively involved in training and providing educational programs for parents, teachers and administrators. She has also published articles focused on values based systems and curricula. As a founder of PVPA, she has a keen appreciation for what it means to build a vibrant educational program based on the founding principles.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of Berkshire Hills Music Academy from my first visit. Meeting the students, staff, and Board members gave me the sense of a warm, caring, and nurturing community, where everyone is valued and supported in

reaching for their highest potential," said Ms. Marsh. "Yet, in any successful employment opportunity, there needs to be a reciprocal exchange. I recognized that my skills and previous experience would add important elements to BHMA, and I appreciated that I would increase and deepen my own understandings from the wisdom of the school community."

Ms. Marsh holds a bachelor of arts degree from Hunter College, an ATR from Boston University and a master's in education from Cambridge College. She is licensed as a Superintendent of Schools at all grade levels. She and her husband live in Belchertown and are the parents of two children.

"With a long and strong background as a visionary, founder, leader, manager and school administrator with a focus on creating and delivering strong curriculum, Ms. Marsh has excellent qualifications to lead BHMA," said Kay Bernon, president of the Board, in announcing Ms. Marsh's appointment. "She has worked with individuals with cognitive disabilities as a teacher and in residential settings. She has energy, focus and a caring manner that will be suitable to support and lead staff, students and families. We are delighted to welcome her as our Executive Director."