



Office of Special Education and Pupil Services

Ms. Alpha Sanford

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Memo 1: For Randolph Public Schools Families

March 6, 2019

Dear RPS Families,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you well! I am looking forward to serving the Randolph Public Schools in my new role as the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services. Many of you know that I've come back to Randolph Public Schools (RPS) after serving RPS from 2008-2017 in different roles. With this new position, I believe it offers many opportunities for all of us to grow, learn and create appropriate supports for our schools and the community-at-large.

I am aware of the many issues that the Special Education Department is currently facing. Since February 7th, I've been listening to the concerns that you have shared regarding the special education programs and services in the Randolph Public Schools. I am acutely aware of the incident that happened at the JFK Elementary School and I empathize with the community and with all of you. As a parent myself, I feel your concerns and possibly your fears. Please know that I and my fellow leaders and educators are committed to addressing this incident in the best way possible.

With all of these in mind, I anticipate that for the rest of this school year there will be a lot of listening and observing in order to understand the entire landscape of special education in our district. I plan on visiting and observing all district-wide and school-based programs under the umbrella of the special education department. I would welcome your input in this process. I will also be focusing on getting to know the Randolph Public Schools' areas of strengths and weaknesses relevant to the most pressing issues in special education. I would like to understand how we can best serve our students' needs and how we can all work together as one cohesive community.

As part of the community concerns around special education, we are looking into the possibility of having an entire program evaluation of the Randolph Public School special education department. We are in the process of identifying the organization that will best match our current needs. As we go further with the process, you will hear from this department about the next steps.

As I navigate the district for the next few months, I will be appreciative of your patience and understanding that this work needs thorough and systematic analysis for Randolph Public Schools to achieve better supports and programs for our students with individualized educational programs.

My goal is to communicate with you through a monthly letter (such as this) so that you will be made aware of this department's progress.

I look forward to working with you and thank you very much for all you do!

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Randolph Public Schools (RPS) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ethnic identity, sex, gender identity, disability, handicap, age, religion, sexual orientation or homelessness in admission to or participation in its programs and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, bullying, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their ability or freedom to learn and work.

Sincerely,

Alpha Sanford, M.Ed, CAGS
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

MARCH 2019 EVENTS AND UPDATES for Special Education and Pupil Services:

1. **March 13, 2019 at 1:30 – 3:00 PM, RHS Lecture Hall 1 Community open forum and update** – Dr. Brian Rachmaciej, Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools will be hosting another open forum with the community. This is a continuation of what Dr. Rachmaciej has started to continue to hear your concerns.
2. **March 18, 2019: MA Department of Elementary Secondary Education Tiered Focused Monitoring Review** – Representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary Secondary Education (DESE) will be visiting and observing our special education programs on Monday, March 18th for the entire day. This is part of the DESE's Tiered Focused Monitoring Review, a process that the department has in place to monitor local compliance that covers selected requirements in the special education criteria.

A separate press release will be shared with the community in the next few days detailing the scope of this visit.

At the end of the CPR visit, there will be a random selection of survey to parents that will be sent directly from the DESE. However, if anyone of you wants to have any input in this process, please contact directly the Tier Focused Monitoring (TFM) Chairperson of the DESE, Ms. Doryce Smith at 781-338-3718.

3. **March 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM, location Triangle Randolph office: Triangle Parent meeting** - A message from the Chief Executive Officer, Coleman Nee: "I would like to invite you to a forum that we are holding for our RHS families on March 25th at 6:30 PM at our site at 9 Memorial parkway. We will provide dinner and refreshments. Our goal is to offer an opportunity to voice any concerns or questions, as well as allow us to explain how we are re-dedicating our effort in employment support services to students going forward. If you are unable to attend or would like to discuss anything beforehand, please feel free to call me at 781-388-4310 or email me at cnee@triangle-inc.org."

Should you have any concerns and immediate issues, please contact the Chief Program Office Drew Warren directly at [781-854-2664](tel:781-854-2664)/dwarren@triangle-inc.org.

4. **March 27, 2019 at 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Lyons Elementary school: Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Meeting** – We are inviting you to please attend the next SEPAC meeting on March 27th.

I am also pleased to inform you that on February 26, 2019 SEPAC chair Keith Wortzman hosted coffee hours and we had a meet and greet session. I was very glad to meet some of you and I look forward to seeing more of you in the near future.

SAVE THE DATE: Please keep in mind that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will hold its ELECTION on May 22, 2019! This is an important time for all of you to come and be part of this council. We need parents like you to help us build partnerships together.

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