

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"



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For Immediate Release

Randolph Public Schools' Commitment to Multicultural Families through Family Engagement and Parenting Education

Randolph, MA – June 26, 2024 – After learning about Families First's work in 2022, in which parents brought their lived experiences raising young children to advise the institutions and policies in their district, Randolph Public Schools and Dr. Thea Stovell Herndon, the Superintendent, were eager to invest in parents, saw the pathway to make it happen, and reached out to Families First. ("Parents" include grandparents, caregivers, guardians, family members, adoptive and biological parents)

Randolph Public Schools first offered the Parent Leadership Series of the Ripple Program, which includes training sessions for families to strengthen their professional leadership and advocacy skills. To be as inclusive as possible for the community, families had Haitian Creole and Vietnamese interpreters for support.

Randolph Public Schools also introduced Families First's Power of Parenting Program to our community. In this program, families continued to build parenting skills, knowledge, and support systems with other parents and access community resources.

Seeing the value of engaging parents and their demands and interests, we committed to co-creating a Community Impact Project with parent leaders.

On Thursday, May 23rd, over 80 families gathered at Randolph High School for the Randolph Multilingual Parent Conference. Families from Haiti, Brazil, Vietnam, and several Latin American countries attended this significant event, which aimed to foster community engagement and empower parents. Event materials, including folders and handouts, were thoughtfully translated into Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Spanish, with interpreters on hand to assist.

The event was made possible by the dedicated Community Impact Project (CIP) team, led by Molly Ross, the Assistant Director of Multilingual Learners and Family Engagement at Randolph Public Schools. She was supported by Dr. Lunine Pierre-Jérôme, the Randolph Haitian Family Liaison, Giselle Valdez, the



Spanish Family Liaison, and three exceptional Parent Leaders: Enese Nivose, Mirlene St Louis Jean Louis, and Marie Lucere Vincent Hommeus. *Parent Leaders – parents who have participated in the Community Impact Project.

This well-organized, family-centered conference provided crucial information for families navigating a new school system. The CIP parent leaders warmly welcomed all families and encouraged them to become parent leaders themselves. As the parent leaders confidently addressed the audience, their newfound sense of pride and confidence was evident.

The Randolph Multilingual Parent Conference highlights Randolph Public Schools' commitment to parenting education and family engagement. By investing in parents as leaders, the district is strengthening both the parents and the school community through a dual-capacity building model. This dedication to supporting diverse families ensures that everyone in the town knows about the positive initiatives taking place and that new families feel welcomed and supported.

What started with one program quickly developed into several cohorts of parents and a continued partnership with Families First with both the Power of Parenting Program and the Ripple Program.

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