



**DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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Steven Stone
Superintendent of Schools

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

October 2nd 2015

Dear Families,

Once again another summer flew by and our school doors opened to receive your children. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the first real signs of fall this week.

During the course of my first year in the Dracut Public Schools, I had the pleasure of getting to know many of you and your children. I look forward to meeting more of you throughout the course of the current school year. We welcome Daniel Angell to the district as he begins his role as a School Psychologist. Internally, Michelle Marvin has become the Team Chair for Brookside and Greenmont. In the same role Beth Keohane will be working at Englesby and Campbell. Johanna Garneau has moved into the role of Out of District Team Chair at Central Office. We have several other new staff in buildings and I urge you to connect with them and give them a warm welcome to the district.

Enclosed you will find the Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards. In accordance with federal special education law, IDEA 2004, school districts may distribute these Safeguards once per year to parents/guardians of students in special education. Please maintain these Safeguards for your reference throughout the school year. Should you need an additional copy at any point during the school year, we will be happy to provide that for you upon request. If you have any questions regarding the contents of these Safeguards, please contact the appropriate Team Chairperson associated with the school your child attends.

In an effort to be as cost effective as possible, we are enclosing one copy per family even if more than one child in your household receives special education services. Additional copies can be provided to you should you request a copy per child.

The Dracut Special Education Parent Advisory Council is also in the process of reforming and will become more active over the next few months. Please be on the lookout for information from them on the school department website. There is a survey on the student services and SpEd PAC pages on the school department website to gauge interest in the council. Please complete the survey if you are interested in participating. I anticipate that the SEPAC will be an important resource to many families in Dracut and also to my department in an advisory capacity.

My hope is that this new school year will afford continued opportunities to work collaboratively with parents and staff as we strive to achieve a common goal of ensuring a positive school experience for all our students. Best wishes for the 15-16 school year.

Sincerely,

Richard Whitehead, Director of Student Services.