

Newburyport Public Schools
Office of the Superintendent
70 Low Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

February 2, 2024

Dear parents/guardians,

This afternoon we welcomed Bradley Brooks to the Newburyport Public School community as our new Director of Pupil Services. I want to personally thank our families whose children receive special education services for your participation in the process.

Feedback from ongoing parent conversations and information from the public forum and survey conducted by NESDEC have provided us with a clear understanding of some of the concerns of our special education families. On page four of the [NESDEC Candidate Profile](#) you will find a detailed list that reflects the focus-group and survey feedback from parents, guardians and staff.

As a result of your feedback in this process, the district is taking several steps:

- Reorganizing our district leadership team to include senior level support for the Director of Pupil Services. The new department structure will be announced once it is finalized.
- Rebuilding the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) to ensure a vibrant and active support system for parents. This work has already begun and will be ongoing.
- Establishing an annual parent survey to provide the department with regular feedback. Director Bradley Brooks will work collaboratively with Interim Director Debra O'Connor and the SEPAC group so surveys can begin next school year.
- Allocating more oversight and resources to our school-level programs to support our educators. The reorganized department structure will ensure all staff have easy access to professional support and resources.

Mr. Brooks will join the district full time in July. This summer he will be conducting a series of focus groups, and through the fall he will visit schools to hear from administrators and staff about the strengths and challenges of the programs. In addition, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [Tiered Focused Monitoring](#) process, which is currently taking place, will result in a report that Mr. Brooks will use to set goals and objectives. Once Mr. Brooks has a better understanding of the district's needs, he will present a full assessment and strategic plan for the Special Education Department to the School Committee and community-at-large.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively on behalf of the children and families in Newburyport to create a special education experience where every child can learn and grow.

Respectfully,

Sean Gallagher
Superintendent