

Honeywell Update- October 21, 2015

Good evening Highland Park. This is Dr. Taylor with an important update about the status of our district's Educational Services Department.

A great number of our community's students are provided support services in the form of English language learning programs, basic skills instruction and special education plans. You should know about a number of measures that are being taken to improve the programs for which this department is charged with operating.

Our new interim educational services supervisor, Kathleen Lutkenhouse, will begin working in our district on Wednesday October 28. Ms. Lutkenhouse previously worked in the New Providence School District and comes to Highland Park as a very highly regarded professional. Our school district leadership as well as members of the child study team met with Ms. Lutkenhouse to determine her qualifications and compatibility with our students' needs.

Ms. Lutkenhouse will remain with Highland Park until February 2016 at which time the Educational Services Department will likely welcome its new permanent director. To help with the recruitment and vetting of high quality candidates for this position, the Middlesex Educational Services Commission will be contracted to support the all-important hiring process for our next special services leader. My proposed timeline will have a finalist presented to the full board of education on December 14, 2015.

Finally, I must share with you that the Middlesex Educational Services Commission will also be conducting a comprehensive audit of our special education services. Timed to culminate with the arrival of a permanent director, this review will provide our community with indications of our strengths and needs as well as action items we can implement starting in the spring of 2016.

That's it for now. Have a good evening Highland Park. My next message will come to you on November 4.

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