



Message to the Community Regarding Ms. Elizabeth Aaron's New Central Office Position

Dear SOMSD Community,

I have asked Ms. Elizabeth Aaron to join Central Office as a Principal on Special Assignment to assist me with crucial, large-scale initiatives which our district will be focusing on for the next few years.

The work which the district is undertaking with the long-range facilities plan and the restructuring of our schools gives SOMSD a wonderful opportunity to reimagine our district from the ground up. Ms. Aaron will serve a critical role in the process of moving this exciting and ambitious change process forward, using her knowledge of the history of the district, her deep commitment to the community, and her research and organizational skills.

Ms. Aaron will research best practices across the nation in school configurations and reorganization efforts. Once the new structure is developed for grades K-8, Ms. Aaron will work closely with the superintendent to ensure educators, community members, and parents/guardians collaboratively design a seamless and supported transition for students, staff and families. She will help assure that we are designing structures that are not only more effective logistically, but which also create a learner-centered environment in which all students can thrive.

Dr. Thomas Ficarra
Interim Superintendent

Dear SOMSD Community,

The opportunity to work with students, staff, families, and community partners pre-K12 across our two towns is one I look forward to with optimism. The work done over the past several years in our district on a Strategic Plan, our awareness of our enrollment growth, and commitment to making sure our schools are safe, strong, and nurturing for all of our students and staff are the building blocks of the work ahead.

Our commitment to equity and opportunity for all students, rigor, support, and engagement for all students, and professional development and learning for our teachers that supports those goals will be critical parts of the work to reconfigure our K-8 learning and school structures.

Hearing and including all voices and views, engaging in civic and civil discourse around all matters regarding our school system, and the fact that true and inclusive public education is the strongest guarantee of a strong and functional democracy will guide our work forward.

The years I have spent as a student and teacher in Asbury Park, Summit, Rutgers-Newark, and as Assistant Principal and Principal of Columbia High School, and my experiences as a parent and member of our community for 21 years, along with the support of our teachers, and staff, students and their families, Board of Education, and central office leadership will inform each step in the work ahead. This work requires full transparency, collaboration, trust, and dedication. I am honored to begin it.

Elizabeth Aaron, MAT, M.Ed.
Principal on Special Assignment