



## SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Dr. Jessica Huizenga**  
Receiver/Superintendent

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### NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING

January 13, 2017

Dear Southbridge Public School Community,

Last spring, I asked an outside agency to review Special Education Services in Southbridge. As part of the review, the team interviewed a number of teachers, parents and community members. Some of the anonymous comments collected are shocking for their level of ignorance and disrespect of our Latino families and I am personally offended. Rather than ignore or hide the comments, I feel it is important to address the matter of cross-cultural understanding as a community and I am working closely with leaders in the Latino community and Town leaders.

This week, I sent a note to school staff that provides more detail of the report and its findings. You can find my letter, the report and a copy of the presentation, delivered on January 10<sup>th</sup> to a joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council, on our website at [www.southbridgepublic.org](http://www.southbridgepublic.org) (choose *Departments/Special Education*).

I invite you to join the discussion at a **community meeting on Thursday January 19 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the former High School on Cole Ave.** We will provide childcare.

Feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns and comments. Thank you for your support of our schools, teachers and students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica Huizenga  
Receiver/Superintendent

*In the Southbridge Public Schools, ALL students will experience a world-class education, and will graduate as engaged citizens who demonstrate the essential skills required for success in college and career.*