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Dear Parents and Guardians,

August 16, 2017

I am honored to have been selected by The Norwalk Board of Education as Chief of Specialized Learning and Student Support Services. I am writing this as a brief introduction until my official start date in Norwalk on September 1, 2017. During the past few weeks, I have met many staff and family members. I am impressed with the teachers, principals and special education supervisory staff I have had the pleasure of meeting. I have been humbled by the families who have reached out to me in welcome with the hope of implementing programs of excellence for their children. Working together as partners with this wonderful community, I know we will meet the shared vision of providing the best educational services offered in any City in the state of Connecticut. I am proud to be part of this exceptional educational team.

I have spent the past 4 decades in dedicated service to students with disabilities and their families. Through program development, replication of scientific research based practices and implementation of successful strategies with fidelity, I have witnessed remarkable outcomes for students with exceptional needs.

What I am most proud of is the partnerships I have formed with our parents of students with special needs. Together with the leadership team in Norwalk, I know we will redesign and improve upon the services currently provided to students with specialized needs. All students deserve individualized attention including students who are academically talented, children with autism, dyslexia or other neuro-atypical or development disabilities. Our goal is to improve the outcomes for all children. I have chosen to work in Norwalk after a long successful career of 26 years in a similar school district because I know that "Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap" is not merely a district slogan, but rather the mission and purpose of this great city.

Over the years, I saw the importance of staff development to support the teaching teams working with our most vulnerable students. We must model the best instructional practices for adult learning and expect these practices to have significant positive impact on student achievement. We will be guided by data based decision making as we assume competence for all students. The initial focus will be on further development of transition programs for students 18-21, supporting co-teaching initiatives while developing a full continuum of specialized services, enhancing our early childhood program at Norwalk Early Childhood Center, redesign of the district's programs for academically talented students, implementation of the Norwalk Center for Dyslexia, training for para-educators in best practices, and building capacity for electronic information sharing. While ensuring compliance, we will refocus our energies on quality program and staff development. I invite you to join me in this next chapter of celebrating successful educational practices in the Norwalk Public Schools.

I am excited by the challenge and inspired by the vision. I look forward to meeting you, working with you and celebrating your children's progress and success.

Best wishes for a wonderful New School Year.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Yvette Goorevitch". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Yvette Goorevitch,
Chief, Specialized Learning and Student Services