

## **Kathy Perry, Director of Student Services and Transportation**

A recent whirlwind of Central Administration shifts and new appointments provided Kathy Perry with her much wished for opportunity to apply for a Central Office position where she believed that she could contribute to the welfare of students and families across the district. The commitment to the welfare of students and families has been a core value and driving force of Kathy's since she began her career in education in Mashpee, MA in 1989. In 1998, Kathy applied for and was appointed as a grade 2 teaching position at the former Maxham Elementary School; thus launching Kathy's Taunton Public School career. That career has spanned about 20 years and over that period of time she has embraced a variety of educational opportunities and challenges from teaching at the elementary level, to serving as a Reading Coach at both the elementary and middle school levels as well as working as a teaching assistant principal, assistant principal and since 2013 as principal of the Friedman Middle School. Moving between and among various schools and their faculties as well as communities of learners and families at both the elementary and middle school levels has honed Kathy's skills in building support among colleagues for shared goals, nurturing her leadership skills and developing an appreciation for the uniqueness of each learner. Kathy has been evaluated and praised for her "cultural sensitivity", an "abiding faith in others", "respecting all personnel and students", and being "conscientious". The traits described encapsulate what a Director of Student Services needs to understand, actively value and model for peers and the community at large.

Holding a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a Master's Degree in Reading from Bridgewater State University, Kathy has integrated her formal education into her educational practice as all teachers do but, additionally, sought to help shape future educators through her work as an Adjunct Professor at American International College. A former colleague, when writing a recommendation on Kathy's behalf, perhaps said it best. "Kathy sees challenges as opportunities. She does not see walls but only bridges when faced with new challenges." The role of Director of Student Services and Transportation expects the appointed administrator to be understanding, patient, even tempered and creative in their approach to any number of issues that come before them. Taunton will be well served as Kathy seeks to build bridges of understanding across the district.