

In response to incorrect social media and emails circulating in District, I provide the following to help set the record straight.

Please know that the Randolph BoE has no plan or desire to diminish the music program in Randolph. It is unfortunate that some are spreading untrue statements to excite or manipulate parents for unknown reasons. I hope that this statement clears up the misinformation being disseminated by people who do not have the facts.

That said let me provide you the facts.

First and foremost, the Randolph BoE has no plan or desire to diminish the music program in Randolph. We have, on the record, stated our high support for the music program and continue to do so.

Second, while the BoE has had no discussion on this matter, the Education Committee is aware that our Superintendent, Ms. Fano, is reviewing the scheduling at the middle school as this is an annual review. She has also asked the administrative staff for a collaborative discussion with the valued music professionals for the best overall educational experience for our students and this is on-going. When Ms. Fano has completed her due diligence, she will report to the BoE. No schedule changes have been determined in any of the districts departments and a review of programs and schedules occurs throughout the district, not just with middle school music. Further, apparently, an email from a non-district person was sent to music parents inviting them to the March 7th BoE meeting to address apparent decisions made by the BoE and containing a number of falsehoods. As President of the Randolph BoE, I set the agenda and can tell you that no discussion on this topic is on the agenda since we are very early in the review process.

Third, we currently do have an unfavorable issue at the middle school where band students are being pulled from three instructional periods per week to receive instruction and missing out on the classroom instruction. Ms. Fano has asked the administrative team to explore options for the 2017-2018 school year to reduce the impact on instructional time for these band students. Once this due diligence is complete, Ms. Fano will report to the BoE but we are early in the process.

Fourth, as a matter of process, when a teacher retires, the administration reviews the need to hire a replacement after reviewing if capacity is available with existing staff without reducing the quality of teaching delivered to students. Note that the teacher's union, REA, and the district have in place a binding contractual agreement that defines the maximum teaching periods and capacity to deliver a high-quality education to our students. The Superintendent, Ms. Fano, is reviewing this with her administrative staff and no conclusion has been made to date.

It is unfortunate that some have or are spreading untrue statements to excite or manipulate parents for unknown reasons in social media. A great way to get the facts is for parents to follow the chain of command and have parents address concerns with first the teacher, building principal, supervisor, director, superintendent and then the BoE.

Lastly, I want to repeat the Districts commitment to our students/parents with our high educational delivery, successful athletic program and exceptional performing arts at Randolph. We are very proud of this.

Thank you.

*Al Matos*

President

Randolph Board of Education