

NEWTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: School Committee Members
CC: David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Maricel Sheets, Director of METCO
DATE: Monday, April 25, 2016
RE: **METCO Program Update**

The vision of METCO is to reduce racial isolation and increase diversity in order for students from different backgrounds to learn from each other in meaningful ways. The program also aims to foster understanding and collaboration between urban and suburban parents in the Boston area. Newton's METCO program strives to provide a strong academic foundation and an environment rich in cultural, educational, ethnic and racial diversity to support the academic and social success of students.

The Newton METCO Program currently supports 430 students and their families from Boston in the Newton Public Schools. In my second year as Director, I am focused on three important areas:

- I. Supporting Students
 - o METCO staff works with Newton administrators and teachers to support the academic and emotional needs of our students.
- II. Working with Staff
 - o Coach and support administrators and staff on culturally proficient classroom and school-wide practices to ensure strong connections with all students.
- III. Family and Community Engagement
 - o Engage Boston and Newton families in order to support the success of all children.

On Wednesday night, I look forward to sharing:

- Newton METCO's programming for students,
- family engagement initiatives, and
- Courageous Conversations About Race leadership training to support the district's goals for student success.

Committed to Academic and Cultural Excellence