

# MSAD #51

*The Schools of Cumberland and North Yarmouth, Maine*

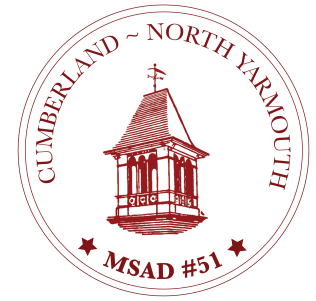
**Jeffrey Porter**, *Superintendent of Schools*

**Scott Poulin**, *Director of Finance, Human Resources & Operations*

**Julie Olsen, Ed.D.**, *Director of Instructional Support*

**Susie Robbins**, *Director of Academic Services*

**Dirk Van Curan**, *Director of Technology Services*



March 16, 2021

To Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my concern with the possible changes LD552 would bring to the IEP process in our Maine Schools. As a Maine educator for over 30 years, I have both personal and professional experience with special education and the IEP process. I have been on both sides of the table; as a parent and an administrator. I believe that I have first hand knowledge of the detriment these proposed changes would have on our schools and foremostly our students.

I do believe that everyone around the table has a voice when creating and reviewing a student's individualized plan for special education services. Our current process allows for every member of the team to ask questions and provide input during the planning process. If the proposed changes go through, anytime team members cannot reach agreement, the child will be held in current programming that needs to change in the best interest of the child. It could take weeks or even months for the dispute process and due process to take place. Our current process may not be perfect, but at least it allows for decisions to be made in a timely manner and not put on hold.

Finally, I believe the process of allocating funds for special programming should stay with the administrator of the meeting. There needs to be a checks and balances system to ensure the student is getting the services they need and the district budget is maintained. If the final decision about programming is taken out of the hands of the administrator of the meeting, families could suggest many costly alternatives.

Feel free to contact me if you would like more information. I can be reached at 2076535424 or [srobbins@msad51.org](mailto:srobbins@msad51.org).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Susie Robbins*

Susie Robbins, Director of Academic Services

