



Camilla Justice loves children. All children. The district's new Director of Special Education started this October. She had always wanted to be a teacher and thought she would become a second grade teacher because that's where she seemed to be heading when she first went to college. But when she began Carlow for elementary teaching, special education was part of the curriculum. Then she landed a job working 1-1 in a school doing some personal care, and she loved it. Her attitude is one of love for each person's unique qualities and in special education that is utilized to the utmost.

After college, one of the first things she did was substitute teach in early intervention for 3-5 yr. olds. Those experiences kept her in the special education field. She could see what special education did, and the difference in each child's growth and experiences. She taught Early Intervention for 5 years and decided to get her Master's. Ms. Justice attended Waynesburg University and earned her special education and principal papers. She worked as the LEA for the Pittsburgh School District and continued working in administrative areas of special education for 18 years until making the transition to Washington School District in October, going from working with over 2500 students in Pittsburgh to about 400 in Washington.

Ms. Justice said her review of Washington services for special education shows there are many good services available to the students, "but I see ways of better streamlining those services to make them work more efficiently and effectively. One goal I have is to make that streamlining happen. One good thing about a smaller district is that staff gets to know the students personally to really help make a difference in their overall education goals.

"The talent of the staff in the district is pretty incredible, especially in how they help and support each other in every way. My job is to build on people's strengths and build success for our overall mission to work with each unique child's skills and abilities."

Ms. Justice said that "coordination with the partnerships with the Intermediate Unit I and transition activities through the Practical Assessment Exploration System or PAES, will help bring all the services to all grade levels in the district. Working with them, I believe we can work to keep students in our community." An additional change she'd like to help coordinate is to bring emotional support and autistic supports to the junior high grades which currently only offer learning and life skills' support. "We have the services here – I want to get them fully utilized at all levels to work for what our students need. I'm looking forward to the challenge."