



Larry Knapp, Superintendent

March 13, 2019

Dear Hamilton City Schools Family,

It is hard to believe, but the 2018-2019 school year is already in the fourth quarter and all that brings. This year has progressed quickly and as usual with Spring, change is in the air.

On a personal note, if you will remember, my appointment to be Superintendent of the Hamilton City School District back in February of 2018 by the Board of Education was made as an interim position. In assessing where we were at that point, three overriding short term goals became apparent.

The first goal was to get the district back on firm ground and to move forward from the recent setbacks and distractions we had endured as district and community.

The second goal was to maintain our educational direction in order to continue with the steady progress of improvement we have recently seen with our testing scores district wide.

The third goal was to work shoulder to shoulder with Mike Holbrook as Associate Superintendent, knowing that when the time was right, he would take over as Superintendent. The thought was that with Mike taking over as Superintendent with his having four years of experience within the district, would help ensure a smooth and seamless transition. This, in turn, would match with the Boards ultimate desire for consistent, long term, and purposeful leadership to best serve our students and community.

Fast forward to March of 2019 and I think it is safe to say that we have been able to achieve all three of these goals.

Those who are closest to the workings of Central Office know that starting in January of this year, there has been a slow and well thought out process of transitioning the Superintendent's job responsibilities over to Mike. Things have progressed well and maybe a little more quickly than originally presumed, but after speaking with the Board of Education last night we are all in agreement the time has come for me to step aside and for Mike to take the helm. Board action will be taken in the near future for this to officially take place.

That all being said, with my departure, I would like to say the Board of Education is to be commended for their foresight and level-headedness in this process, even as they have been faced with some very tough decisions through the course of this past year.

I would like to thank them publicly for the trust they have shown in my leadership and their unwavering support of the changes our administrative team has brought forward and in large part have been able to implement. This Board of Education consistently continues to do what is best for the district and they have successfully kept their interests focused on what is best for kids. I have sincerely enjoyed working with each of them and respect their efforts as professionals and stewards of the district.

In closing, please also know how much I have personally enjoyed all of the support and friendship so many of you have extended to me over the last four years. As you already know, Hamilton is a special place and without a doubt, it is the people who live and work here that make it special.

Thank you for letting be a small part of the Hamilton family. My best to you all in your continued efforts to serve the children and community of Hamilton in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Larry Knapp