

January 12, 2016

Dear School Board Chair Scifres and members of the Cape Elizabeth School Board,

It is with the utmost respect and gratitude that I submit my resignation from the position of Superintendent of Schools effective June 30, 2016. It has been a great privilege to serve the community of Cape Elizabeth over the last five years. I am very proud of the work the board, administration, and teachers have done for students during that time period, and I appreciate the support that parents and the community have provided to help the district work toward making the vision of the schools a reality for each student each day. The Board has much to be proud of as it looks at the work of the last few years: the current successes of the student-driven learning program, the implementation of full-day kindergarten, the advancement of technology in its schools, efforts to build stronger relationships with and among students, and, less glamorous but equally fundamental, work in policy review, the development and implementation of a long-range capital improvements plan, and successful negotiations with five collective bargaining groups.

In the past several years the district has also been challenged with meeting legislative expectations around proficiency-based education and reforming teacher and administrator evaluation coupled with the adoption and implementation of new state standards and an ever-changing state assessment system. I am proud of the work our district has done to make thoughtful local decisions despite those external pressures and our efforts to remain focused on providing all of our students with quality instruction. Parents and students have told us in surveys that our schools are safe and that they are proud of our schools and their reputation in the community.

Yet, there is certainly work to do as the district moves forward with its next Superintendent. While our high school was recently recognized for “beating the odds” for socio-economically disadvantaged students, the opportunity gap for our students with disabilities remains too wide. While nearly all of our students graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education, too many of them tell us that they are not engaged in our classrooms and do not see the relevance of some of their academic work. Too many of our children also tell us that they are anxious and stressed about meeting academic and social expectations. These are complex challenges that will only be addressed through the concentrated efforts of all stakeholders.

I appreciate the many opportunities afforded to me as your Superintendent and am grateful to have had the chance to work in a community that so deeply values education and its students. As I move on to new and different challenges, I will continue to hold Cape Elizabeth in the highest regard and will forever remember the faces and stories of those children, parents, staff and community members with whom I have had the pleasure to serve. I look forward to the work that lies before

us over the next six months and to supporting the Board and the school community through the transition to a new Superintendent of Schools.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Nadeau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meredith Nadeau