

February 1, 2012

Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great sadness that I let you know that I have notified the Board of my intention not to continue in my role as Superintendent in Bellevue. As you know, my mother is a stroke victim battling cancer in California and when her condition deteriorated, I took a medical leave to care for her. This past month and a half with her has convinced me that I need to be with her, by her side, for as long as I can.

The time away from the District during my leave has offered me the opportunity to reflect about priorities, commitment to family, as well as the needs of the District and ultimately, its students. Given my current family responsibilities, overseeing the medical and emotional needs of a dying parent and my professional responsibilities as Superintendent in Bellevue, I feel that I cannot fulfill both of these roles as effectively as I would like, simultaneously. While leaving Bellevue as Superintendent is the hardest decision I have ever had to make in my professional career, I know in my heart, that it is the right decision both for my family and the District.

I believe that during my tenure we have accomplished great work together. We have laid a solid foundation in each of our schools for teacher leadership to take hold through the establishment and training of Instructional Leadership Teams and Professional Learning Communities. We have developed a strong model of training and support for all District leaders that will result in improved teaching and learning experiences for all students. We have opened innovative schools such as the Big Picture School, the Chinese Dual Immersion Program at Ardmore and the new Spanish Dual Immersion Program at Sherwood Forest. With the commitment and hard work of Sammamish leaders and staff, support from District staff and the Bellevue Schools Foundation, we have secured a STEM grant that will undoubtedly result in students that are much more engaged and better prepared to compete in a global economy. We have begun to revamp our common curriculum to address the changes and requirements of the new common core standards particularly in Mathematics and Language Arts. We have piloted and implemented new literacy materials at the elementary level along with a strong professional development plan to support teachers with this implementation. We have secured a new teacher contract that offers an opportunity for collaboration between the administration and the Bellevue Education Association (BEA) to develop new teacher and principal evaluation tools that clearly outline our areas of responsibility and provides greater accountability for student results. We have created a District score card to publicly measure progress towards our goals. Working with parents and the community, we launched a strategic planning process to develop a roadmap for the District for the next five years. Last but not least, we have implemented a District committee process in order to better engage our parents, community, and staff in our decision making and provide transparency in our work. While the work started under my leadership is not complete, I believe that the commitment from the Board, Cabinet, principals and staff to continue implementing the changes is solid. We have a lot to be proud of and none of this would have been possible without your commitment, hard work and support.

Bellevue is an amazing district and I am honored to have worked with you in the name of students, for these past two and a half years.

With warm regards,

Amalia