

To my fellow Board Members, Teachers, Students, Parents, Mrs. Diaz, Mrs. Jones and the entire Carteret Community,

The last year plus has been a challenge for us all. We all had plans and ideas for our futures, but covid seems to have changed so much for so many. When running last year for another term, I fully intended to serve my 3 years and make this my last term. I feel that this district is on a much better path than when I was first elected to the BOE and I wanted to do just one more term to continue to move us forward.

However, plans do change. My family, and I mean both my husband's and mine, have seen a lot happen over the last year. The loss of members too young, sicknesses, not being able to socialize due to covid and the age of many family members, depression and so much more. Our youngest child had Covid, and we could not be there to help him because he was quarantined by the Navy alone for 14 days down in Norfolk. That and so much more has weighed heavily on me and forced me to refocus my life and future.

With all that said as of May 31, 2021 I will be resigning from the Carteret Board of Education. I need to be able to refocus myself on my health, my family and more and I do not feel that right now I can give the time or dedication to the families, students, faculty and staff of Carteret that they deserve. I know I was just sworn in for a newly elected term and I truly thank, from the bottom of my heart, the voters of Carteret for their overwhelming support in November. It was humbling to see so many put their trust in me, and I apologize for not being able to complete this term.

To the Students – both past and present – that I have met during our Student Liaison Meetings: You have all given me the most joy of being on the Board. Meeting with you monthly, listening to what you had to say and working to correct things brought to my attention was, to me,

the best part of my time here. I have always said that being on the Student Liaison committee was my favorite part of being a Board Member. The students in this district will always hold a special place in my heart.

To the Teachers – Thank you. Thank you from my whole heart for being you. You are all amazing and have been put through so much with Covid over the last year plus and you have persevered!! You have shown how much you care about our students and have done more than was ever asked of you. I have made some real friends with many teachers and I will totally and completely miss you all!!

To the Custodians and Maintenance workers – You are so underappreciated in the all the work you for our district. I cannot Thank you enough for all the hard work you have been putting in to get our schools back up to where they belong and looking soooo much better than they did when I first joined the Board. You have such dedication and I could see it anytime I visited a school – when we were open of course!

To the secretaries, para's and anyone else I forgot – Thank you for doing all you do to keep our schools running on schedule and as smoothly as possible. During the last year plus, you have had to make so many adjustments and overcome obstacles and you all did an amazing job!!

To my fellow Board Members – It has been a journey and one that I will never forget. It was not always an easy road, but we managed to do amazing things once we started working together. I am honored to have served with you all and blessed to call many of you friends. Continue to do the job you do and keep moving our district forward. Continue to work together and be one team and no longer split. Listen

to each other, learn from each other, ask questions and give our students and teachers all that they deserve.

To the Administration – Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to move our district forward. You have made some much-needed changes here and I have no doubt that you will continue to guide us in the right direction. Raising our ranking in the state is not something that can happen overnight. Just like anything else it takes time and teamwork to accomplish.

I have seen two quotes that I would like to share with you all. The first was said by Henry Ford - Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress, Working together is success. The second is from Mattie Stepanek - Unity is Strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved. Always remember that you have a huge team behind you. Everyone involved in this district wants to see us improve and succeed. Ask questions, make visits, speak to each other as equals and collaborate to achieve goals. You never know from who or where the next good idea will come.

I just have one request – if at all possible – when you schedule the ribbon cutting for the Junior High School, can I please get an invite so I can come and see this school that I was part of the beginning for? I am so excited for the future of the district with the opening of this school!

Being on the Board of Ed has been one of the most rewarding times in my life. I have made, what I feel are lifelong friends....and many are more like family than just friends. I have learned so much and I will deeply miss working with you all.

Thank you
Debra Weaver