



Superintendent's Office

Craig G. Broeren, Superintendent
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February 27, 2024

To The WRPS Board of Education:

The purpose of this letter is to request approval of my resignation as Superintendent for the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools effective June 30, 2024, pending approval of my new contract with the St. Croix Falls School District.

I am choosing to provide some background in this letter which may be atypical, but since this letter will no doubt be requested under Wisconsin's "open records" law from the media and/or other concerned citizens, I would like to attempt to ensure that there is hopefully little or no opportunity at "spinning" my resignation as anything other than what it is in reality.

In short, WRPS is an outstanding District by nearly all accounts and all measures. My wife and I chose to have our own kids educated in this District and as graduates of Lincoln High School, we are assured that they will be successful in whatever they choose to do next. The caliber of the students and staff along with the variety and rigor of programming offered here is truly what sets this District apart. There is also a ton of promise in this community, with many groups and individuals whose primary goals are to legitimately advocate for Wisconsin Rapids and the surrounding area. As a result of this, we have been able to work through difficult circumstances as well as achieve significant progress in many capacities as an organization and as a community during my tenure here.

There is unfortunately a relatively small contingent of individuals (as there are in many communities) whose primary goal appears to be only to perpetuate negativity as well as fabricate narratives which are meant to undermine. These individuals have never provided any rational solutions to the issues they raise nor do they work to make any attempt at improving our schools and community. Their feigned concerns are not based in any sort of reality; a fact that they attempt to hide with bluster and rhetoric meant to heighten concerns over nonexistent problems. I will be the first to admit that no community or organization (including schools) are perfect and there are many things our schools and community can do to continue to improve, but attempting to create more issues by "fanning the flames" of whatever the flavor-of-the-day outrage happens to be is about as counterproductive as it gets. Nonetheless, WRPS and our greater community have accomplished some incredible things and will continue to do so well into the future.

I want to be incredibly clear that my resignation has little to do with these individuals nor does it have to do with any sort of disappointment with the District or community. My wife and I have had intentions of heading back west at some point once our kids graduate; as many of you know, that will transpire this May. I am however, concerned that these negative voices may continue to grow and become more empowered; therefore, I am using my resignation as an appeal to the overwhelming majority of the community who are positive, supportive, and legitimately want this District and our community to be the absolute best it can be. I am not asking for blind support nor indicating that we do not have issues to address; I am asking for those who know what an outstanding community and District we have here, those who recognize that there will be problems and issues that arise, but will also dedicate themselves to improving circumstances through sharing concerns and possible solutions from a position of support. I know that the majority of this

community is supportive of our schools and want nothing but the best for this community; I am appealing to those individuals to become more vocal as well as to hold the negative voices accountable. If we collectively want this to be a community people want to live in, we all have to be mindful about how we speak about it. I have had the privilege of serving in public education over approximately 22 years and I can say without question, that the main difference between supposedly successful schools and communities is how individuals associated with those schools and communities speak about them. Please do not allow the negativity to grow. Community leaders and community members create the community they live in through their words and actions. Pointing fingers and disparaging individuals or institutions has NEVER caused them to improve.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank the very supportive and dedicated Board of Education, outstanding staff, incredible students, and collaborative community partners who have made the past seven years of my life an unforgettable experience as well as our schools proportionately better places for our kids. I will remain very proud of the fact that my kids are graduates of Lincoln High School (Classes of 2022 and 2024) and will remain honored to have been allowed to serve as the Superintendent of WRPS regardless of what my future holds.

Thank you again to the Board of Education and our community. I remain committed to ensuring that the transition in District leadership is as smooth as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Broeren', written in a cursive style.

Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent