

Farewell Message

To

All Staff

As I begin my transition from Director of Education to retirement, I wish to take this opportunity to say farewell one last time to each and every one of you who make a difference to the lives of our students each and every day.

For the past forty-two years, I have had the very good fortune and privilege to work and be associated with staff, trustees, colleagues, parents, and community partners. As a result I now have wonderful and permanent memories that I will cherish forever. I wish to express my respect, gratitude, and appreciation to all for making my journey so memorable.

I am very proud of the accomplishments and contribution that everyone makes to our education system and the education of our students and indeed the future of our society.

It has been said that an organization is only as good as the people in it. Our Board is very, very fortunate to enjoy quality people who are dedicated to the improvement of students learning.

Our students from right across our Board, from Hornepayne to Elliot Lake, are provided excellent learning opportunities, excellent learning environments and each and every one of you is the reason for that.

Each and every one of you is making a difference. I want you to know that I am appreciative and proud of the work you do.

Our schools look great, both inside and outside. They are clean, safe and inviting. Our students enjoy coming to school. They are achieving better than ever before. More students are having their individual needs met, more are staying in school, more are returning to school and more are graduation from high school. Just as important, more and more parents are choosing our schools to enroll their children in.

These things do not happen by chance. They happen because everyone in our Board understands the very important role that each plays to the betterment of our students, our community and ultimately our society.

That is why I am very proud of our care staff, educational assistants, secretaries, support staff, teachers, school administration, managers, supervisors and trustees.

I am also very proud and thankful to have been supported by Superintendents who are the most professional, committed and hardworking members that any senior Administrative team could ever have.

And so, as I leave, what I consider to be the best Board in the province, I am very pleased and confident that the Board is in very capable hands to continue to "Reach to the Future".

I congratulate Lucia Reece on her appointment as Director of Education. Lu is very intelligent, hardworking and passionate about student learning and a great communicator. She has a very strong curriculum and research-based learning strategies background that will, with your help and support, make this Board even better in reaching students to achieve their full potential.

To all I say farewell, thank-you and express my heart-felt wishes for much success in the future as you continue to raise the bar, close the gap, and increase confidence in public education.

It has truly been an honour and privilege for me to have worked shoulder to shoulder with you on behalf of our students and indeed the future of us all.