

February 15, 2024

Dear Kelly Owens Esq. and Superintendent Dr. Paul Gothold,

I am unable to attend this evening's meeting, but I have asked President Miller to read my comments into the record. I have served as a Board Member for the District since 2014. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the School District's Community. I believe passionately in the importance of public education and public service and the responsibilities of a Board Member require significant preparation and deliberation in analyzing all of the issues brought to the Board for its consideration.

I am leaving office in order to fulfill my obligation as an employee in a new position. I simply cannot properly meet my obligations as an employee and a Board Member without compromising my responsibilities in each role. I have always taken pride in focusing on the needs of the District and cannot fulfill that responsibility partially. I know and understand that we all take our responsibility to vote on issues before us seriously, and that those decisions may not always be popular with others.

Recently I have experienced disgraceful personal attacks that are incredibly offense and hurtful. There is no need in a civilized society for ad hominem personal attacks. I categorically deny all of the recent vicious personal attacks. They saddened me on a personal level, but more importantly they are grossly misleading this community that I have faithfully served. It is perplexing to me that people would stoop so low as to make false and defamatory statements in an effort to disparage my work and good name. At the end of the day, I take great comfort in knowing that I am telling the truth without reservation.

Social media and bullying have become a serious issue for all of us to guard against. We are role models for students, and it is important that no one be bullied or intimidated by lies or innuendo. I have not served in this position to gain popularity, nor do I believe that any of my fellow Board Members do so. Please continue to do the right thing for the District and do not allow threats or intimidation to obstruct your obligations to do the right thing. I am confident that this Board has and will continue to be a beacon of light for the District. I want to thank all of you for your dedicated service and I am certain you will continue to do so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/19/2024

Yours truly,

Jo Alegria