

Board of Directors
South Portland School Department
130 Wescott Road
South Portland, ME 04106
November 10, 2014

Dear Chairman Fitzgerald and Board Members;

It is after much thought and soul-searching that I inform you that I will be retiring on June 30, 2015. After 32 years of working in schools, I find that I've gotten further and further away from activities that give me energy. As I review how my time has been prioritized over the past three years, I see less and less of my time directed to the good work that occurs in the classroom. The majority of my time is spent dealing with personnel issues, in budget discussions, and playing political games. It is time for me to move back toward working directly to make a difference in our classrooms.

This is not to say that the past 11 years (3 as Asst. Superintendent and 8 as Superintendent) haven't been the most productive of my career. The development of the Adult Education program, two preschool classrooms, the renovation and addition to SPHS, and most recently the amazing changes that are occurring in our classrooms through proficiency-based learning, have all been highlights of my time in South Portland.

South Portland is poised to once again be recognized as an exceptional educational community in Southern Maine. The Administrative Team assembled currently is the most professional, hard-working, committed group I've encountered in my career. They put children first in EVERY decision and are dedicated to ensuring all students excel. The level of expertise in educational practices is unmatched and should be valued. Any Superintendent would be privileged to work with this group.

South Portland is also home to a devoted staff. Teachers, Support Professionals, Custodians, and Bus Drivers all work together to provide a safe and caring environment for each of our students. Don't sell these resources short. These are the people that work steadfastly to make a difference in our children's lives.

Thank you for the opportunity you provided for me to lead this organization. Roland Barth writes, "*When we create schools that we value, for our children and for ourselves, we will have created schools of value to others as well.*" I value the achievements we have collectively accomplished and wish the district the best to come.

Sincerely,

Suzanne T. Godin