



School District of Milton

*Opportunity · Achievement
Community*

Dr. Timothy J. Schigur
Superintendent

Dr. Jerold K. Schuetz
Director of Administrative Operations

Susan L. Probst
Director of Student Services

Ryan K. Ruggles
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

School Board President Prepared Statement

Good morning. This brief meeting is to provide an update to our community on leadership changes that will be taking place at the end of this school year. I'm honored to be here today with two dedicated public servants, Dr. Tim Schigur and Dr. Jerry Schuetz, who have committed countless hours of their time in service to our students, our staff and our community. I'm grateful for their leadership, for all their hard work, and most of all, for their ongoing commitment to making things better here in the School District of Milton.

The past several months presented many different challenges for our board of education. We are, as a school board, directly responsible for creating some of those challenges and must now own them. As the newly elected board president, it is my sincere hope that we can all learn from these events and work to ensure that the unfortunate experiences some of our staff members and their families have had to endure the past few months will not happen again in the future. While potential changes in policy and operational practices are forthcoming, they can't undo the internal and external damage done to the gentlemen seated with me here today. To that extent, collectively, we have all decided it is time to move forward.

As of early this week, both Dr. Tim Schigur and Dr. Jerry Schuetz have submitted their voluntary resignations from employment with the School District of Milton. They will both be resigning at the end of this school year, which is June 30, 2019. Their resignations are completely voluntarily.

I've had the distinct pleasure of working with both Tim and Jerry. I know how hard they work and how much they care. While some of the events of the recent past are regrettable, what remains undisputed is that their efforts are best quantified in one simple statement: our school district and our community are better because of their commitment, passion for leadership and their hard work. Our enrollment and academic achievement scores are strong. School district property taxes went down five of the past six years. Our schools are safer for students, staff and families. Communication with families has improved notably over past practices. The successful passage of an operational referendum AND a facilities referendum within the past three years was no accident. It was the direct result of a tireless effort to ensure that the public understood our school district's needs. Tim and Jerry, along with other student advocates, were instrumental in the successful passage of the 2016 operational referendum and the 2019 facilities referendum.

Dr. Schigur and Dr. Schuetz have both indicated that they don't want their presence in the district to stand in the way of what is most important – student opportunities and achievement. To that end, the board of education accepts their voluntary resignations and wishes them continued success in the future.

The board has a considerable amount of work to do in establishing both short-term and long-term goals to fill these leadership vacancies. Our most immediate short-term goal will be to hire an interim superintendent. The board will be meeting to discuss that process in the coming weeks. The job tasks these two administrators currently perform are many. We will be looking, both within and outside of the organization, to ensure that the services they oversee, provide and coordinate do not diminish in their absence. Our school district has gone through leadership changes before and I'm confident in our staff to manage this change as successfully as they have in the past.

In closing, please know that the board of education hopes these changes provide an opportunity for our school district and our entire community to move forward and allows Tim and Jerry to do the same. Together, we look forward to the continued growth and success of the School District of Milton.

This prepared statement reflects the only statement that the board of education intends to make at this time. Both Dr. Schigur and Dr. Schuetz have indicated that it is their desire not to answer any questions from the media.