

Dear Long Trail School Board,

Over five years ago I was asked to join the board of Long Trail School. As I learned about the school and those who made up the LTS community I was excited by the unique and exceptional possibilities for the students, faculty and staff. This has always been my motivation. Throughout my tenure I have always put what is best for the students of Long Trail School at the forefront of my thoughts and all of my decisions.

Over the last five years I worked with a wonderful and caring board to help bring significant improvements to LTS:

- We built a state-of-the-art Field House so all of our students could participate in athletics and we could finally host home games in the winter.
- We turned around the school's financials in a strategic and thoughtful manner to bring financial stability and sustainability to LTS.
- We turned around the declining enrollment trend and began increasing enrollment before the covid "bump" that many area schools experienced.
- We worked with the LTS community and through thoughtful planning and cooperation, became one of the only high schools to be open for in-person learning five days a week throughout most of the pandemic.
- We led a strategic planning process to improve our school for the future. These meetings included: teachers, administrators, parents, students, community members and board members. We have always sought inclusion. Planning includes everyone not just a few.

I am proud of these achievements and to have worked with such a committed team to improve the lives and experiences of LTS students. However, over the last few days when I have asked myself the question, "what is best for the students of Long Trail School," I have come to a different conclusion than in the past. After many conversations and much reflection, I have concluded that, in the best interests of the school, I will step down as Board Chair today and to ensure a smooth transition, will retire fully from the Board as of January 1, 2022.

As a teacher what I admire most about the profession is the quest for continual learning that teachers embrace. It is what makes those who take up this profession so special and one reason why education is so important. Education should evolve as we should evolve in this rapidly changing world. But we should never lose our core values of trust, integrity, openness and empathy. We should all question and embrace change while we respect and appreciate each other.

I have been deeply frustrated and saddened over the last few weeks to see many in our school community ignore these core values as they sought to win at all costs instead of looking for ways to collaborate for the greater cause - our students. As much as I disagree with the bullying tactics and the demands vs conversation practice it is my hope that by stepping down

the much-needed conversations between the Board, Administration and the teachers and faculty can begin in earnest and everyone at LTS can return to and model our school's values.

I leave this board with only one regret. I wish the teachers knew how much every board member respects the work they do and appreciates how hard their job is. Clearly, this is an area which we could have communicated better.

I wish only good things for the future of Long Trail School. It is a community of passionate thinkers, learners and advocates and contains so many opportunities for future success. I hope it can remedy some of the broken parts of its culture and focus on harnessing the possibilities so all students can thrive.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

John Moser  
Board Chair  
Long Trail School