

Good evening everyone,

After a great deal of thought and prayer, I have decided that I will be resigning, effective immediately.

I am resigning because I have not been permitted to participate in the governance process as a board member, which has systematically prevented me from completing my fiduciary duty.

To be clear, your elected officials, my fellow school board members in their elected capacity, would not allow me to perform the duty I was sworn to do according to Delaware law. I have been intentionally obstructed from presenting policy and accessing information necessary to make informed decisions as a board member. It became further evident tonight when I was unable to even access the remote board meeting. Given these circumstances, there is not a place here for me on this board, to govern, guide, or affect change. I believe it is in my best interest and that of Christina's constituents to resign and make these challenges known.

My votes have been guided by what I have felt is best for our students and our educators. I am sorry that I have not been able to persuade this board to become less reactive and more proactive. I cannot pretend that change is on the horizon when there is no paradigm shift to help our students in any real way.

I ran for this position because I love our students and their best interest is why I endured the exclusionary behavior of the board and district for as long as I have. I believed that I could help this body move forward in a positive direction, but I now realize that the toxic culture is more deeply entrenched than even I realized when I took my oath.

I have dedicated so much time to serving this district. I did so with joy because I sincerely believed that I could be a valuable voice as an educator and parent of a student in one of our statewide programs. However, it has become increasingly clear that I will not be allowed to do that as a member of this board.

I want to be remembered for all the special education policies that I spearheaded. I hope that my legacy on the board is that I stood for students, especially our vulnerable populations. I worked to be a voice for our most at risk of being left behind.

I saw this as my mission. Hopefully, the policies I created earlier in my term will outlast all board members and enhance the change that CSD so desperately needs. I take great pride that all five policies under section 7000: Special Education Services were my brain children. I want my legacy to be that I had more than easy words, that I did more than take great photo ops. I cared about students. I put that into action to implement real, tangible change, that I didn't condone decreases in services for children with Autism.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me, and most importantly, my family. Thank you for believing in me.

To my fellow board members— Remember, you are the sentries of CSD. It is easy to rubber stamp, but you are called to do more. You were voted in because there was a belief from our constituents that you would do what is right for ALL students, not just the neurotypical. Remember we are the custodians for the statewide programs of Delaware School for the Deaf, and The Delaware Autism Program. Remember Networks and Reach. Remember our ELL students and our families living in poverty. Remember our neediest students.

Taking no action, or being silent while those who are defenseless have no champion, is having a direct hand in turning our students into negative statistics. I implore you to stop making that mistake. Facades of unity, will get us nowhere. Ignoring glaring problems is doing a great disservice to our students, staff, and our community.

The only way CSD can survive is to face our district problems directly. I hope that this action will shake the board out of apathy and into tangible, meaningful, and impactful changes.

I will continue to pray for our students, educators, and families during this pandemic. I will continue to support CSD families the best I can, especially our Special needs families amid these difficult times.

If nothing else resonates, please remember previous board member, Elizabeth Paige's words, "Our students need you."
I echo them, now.