

Ms. Diane Porter
Chairwoman, Jefferson County Board of Education
VanHoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218
October 24, 2023

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Dear Esteemed Members of the Jefferson County Board of Education,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. It is with a mix of emotions, both gratitude and sadness, that I write to formally resign from my position on the Jefferson County Board of Education. The nature of my chronic illness demands that I prioritize my health and dedicate sufficient time for treatment, recovery, and self-care. Despite my best efforts, I have realized that I am unable to continue fulfilling my professional responsibilities at the level of excellence that our district expects and that I strive to deliver. This notice will be effective immediately.

It has been an incredible journey serving the Jefferson County Board of Education since June 2010, when I was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Board Member Ann Elmore. This journey has been marked by various significant milestones and achievements, and I am deeply honored to have been part of the board during these transformative years.

I am immensely grateful for the trust and support that the board members and the community have shown me throughout the years. Serving as Vice-Chair in 2011 and subsequently being elected Chair in 2012, then holding the position for multiple terms until 2018, and regaining the Chair position in 2019, has been an immense privilege. The board's dedication to providing quality education and encouragement to our students has been truly inspiring.

During my tenure, my areas of interest and commitment have included Early Childhood Education, Advance Program Assessment and Placement, the W.E.B. DuBois Academy for Males of Color, the Equity Scorecard, resources and support for low-performing students and schools, and the STEAM Academy for Females of Color, which was aptly named the Grace M. James Academy of Excellence. These areas have been at the heart of our efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive educational environment for all students.

As a retired administrator from JCPS with a diverse background in education, I have always strived to bring a unique perspective to the challenges and opportunities facing the students and parents in District 1. Education has been my lifelong passion, and I have cherished the

opportunity to work alongside students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community in our shared mission.

I am particularly proud to have served as the first African-American woman to chair the school board in 2012, and it has been an honor to return to the leadership role over the years. This district holds a special place in my heart, and I am immensely proud of the progress we have made together.

I have complete confidence in the continued dedication and commitment of the board to the betterment of our educational system, and I have every belief that Jefferson County will continue to thrive under the leadership and the collective efforts of the board members.

As I take this step to transition to a new phase of my life, please know that I will always hold the memories of my time on the board close to my heart. I look forward to watching the district's continued growth and success from afar.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the members of the Jefferson County Board of Education, past and present, for your unwavering support and the invaluable experiences we have shared. I also extend my thanks to the entire community for the trust placed in me and for your tireless dedication to our students.

It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals. Education is indeed the greatest gift we can offer our children, and I have full confidence that the board will continue to ensure this gift is given without reservation.

Thank you once again for your leadership, support, and friendship over the years. It has been a privilege to work with you, and I wish the entire board nothing but continued success and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Diane Porter, Chairwoman
Jefferson County Board of Education