

Wendy to read on behalf of Joey Castilleja: 10/14/24 Board Meeting

Good evening everyone. I unfortunately am home with a fever tonight. I wish I could be there to say this in person.

Seven school years ago now, I had the honor to be chosen to join the Mabton family. In that time, a lot has happened. We made it through a pandemic. We exited a school from Federal school improvement. We have improved our facilities, made things safer, and worked really hard together. When you spend more than half a decade with people they become much more than your coworkers and students. They become friends and family. Saying goodbye is never easy. I am going to miss this. I am going to miss being a part of a school community that will do anything for their kids. There was never a time that we didn't have people willing to go an extra mile to make things happen for kids. It has truly been inspiring. I have learned so much from you.

I want to thank the Mabton School Board for their support of me over the years.

Wendy Morrow, Mr. Adams, Carrie Herrera, Natalie Palomarez, and Bill Roettger, my first Board, thank you for inviting me into your family.

Our admin team over the years. Some of you have moved on now, and some are still here. I am thankful to each of you, especially for your unwavering commitment to kids.

Our teachers and staff. I truly believe you to be the best. You are always trying, adjusting, and trying again. You never give up on kids. Please continue to never give up on kids.

Please have high expectations of our kids—they can do it. We have the best kids.

My secretary, Jessica. You mean more to me than you will ever know. I am proud of you and where your career is going. Keep it going, Jess!

To our students: Look around. You all are surrounded by caring adults. Every adult wants the best for you and to prepare you to do big things in life. Mabton is a special place.

I truly believe there is not a more honorable profession than that of an educator. I can also say that I have never been prouder than when I got to say I was your superintendent. It has been an honor to work for you.

I wish the Mabton Community the best in the future. It has been an honor. Thank you.

FOR Kids,

Joey Castilleja