

March 12, 2018

Dear EGRPS Families,

Where, oh where, does the time go? There's an old saying that goes, "Time flies by when you are having fun!" – and fly by it has. Since August 2006, I have proudly served as Superintendent of East Grand Rapids Public Schools with full dedication to our students, educators, staff, families, community, and the 20 board members I have had the privilege to work with during this time. Earlier in the year I informed board members of my intention to retire at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The Board of Education officially accepted my retirement letter this evening during the regular March board meeting. This decision to retire certainly does not come without mixed emotions; many of them, in fact, but I have been told many times by those much wiser than me that when it is time for you to retire, you will know, and that time has come.

Over the past 12 years, I have had the professional and personal satisfaction of leading our school district. I am forever grateful to the Board of Education for hiring and entrusting me with the leadership of this exceptional public school district. I have worked collaboratively with teachers, administration, and the Board in always being focused on increasing the educational opportunities for our students while leading to maintain the *Tradition of Excellence* our community expects and deserves. I am proud that, although we have had to withstand many years of inadequate funding support from the state, the district persistently worked to maintain student programs and services. This would not have been possible without the community's strong support of the EGR Schools Foundation EGRNow! campaigns, Kent County Enhancement millage, and the many small and big sacrifices on the part of all of our staff. The sustained long-term partnerships between the schools, families, and community are what make East Grand Rapids Public Schools truly unique.

I have been extremely blessed in my educational career to have had many mentors, starting with my first year of teaching all the way through to the superintendent role. My mentors have always instilled in me the importance of building relationships at all levels within an educational system, students, staff, parents and board. I cannot think of a better district than EGRPS to close out my professional career and to have had the honor of working with the finest teachers, staff, and administrators who always focus on providing exceptional service in meeting the needs of our students, the high level of parental involvement K-12, and the Board of Education for its dedication and service to our citizens. In addition, I am incredibly thankful for you, the school community, for being so kind, accepting, generous, and supportive of our school district and me throughout my time here in East.

I am confident that East Grand Rapids Public Schools will remain rich in traditions while continuing to focus on the future. I retire as superintendent knowing that this district will continue to thrive as it has for many years because of the exceptional teachers, staff, board, parents, and community that work in collaboration on behalf of our students. Although my retirement is near, my dedication, commitment, and advocacy work on behalf of public education will not be coming to an end; however, it is time for a new leader to continue building on what we have accomplished collaboratively in our district.

Again, I am grateful for the support and relationships that I have been fortunate to develop during my time as superintendent. I have loved my time in East Grand Rapids Public Schools and will forever be cheering the students and district on to bigger and greater accomplishments.

With tremendous gratitude,



Sara Magaña Shubel, Ph.D.
Superintendent

