

March 12, 2014

Sally Saddler, School Board Chair
C/O Juneau School District
10014 Crazy Horse Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sally and Members of the School Board,

It is with a vast array of emotions that I offer this letter of resignation, effective July 1, 2014. While I have greatly appreciated the steadfast support of you as individuals and as a collective Board, for personal and private reasons I feel I must move on. With all my heart, I wish the very best to the Board, the staff, and the community of Juneau. It has been a privilege to serve in the superintendent role here for the past five years, and I will always be proud of the work we have done together.

My biggest wish goes to our students. It is my hope that civic and political leaders will join the Board in supporting and expecting that the necessary changes be made so that more of Juneau's children will succeed in their school experience. Clinging to the status quo will not produce a different result. Without broader support for systemic instructional changes, our students who now struggle will continue to struggle in the system. While we have seen dramatic gains in the graduation rate, academic improvement has been modest. Change is needed – for the sake of so many of our community's kids.

As I complete my final three months of work here, I want to thank the staff and community who have committed themselves to improving our work. Not everyone in our school system is willing to lead the changes needed. We are fortunate to have numerous school and community based leaders who understand that we are capable of stronger, more systemic practice. In academics, activities and the arts, these bold leaders deserve our collective thanks and support for their tireless efforts.

I am offering this resignation despite the fact that I do not yet have another job. I'm sure that will come. I believe strongly in the direction you, the Board, are setting for our school district and want to give you every opportunity to find a first-rate educator to help lead the way. While my resignation would not take effect until July 1st, the Board needs adequate time to develop and implement a search for the new superintendent. So, toward that end, I offer this resignation now. I remain committed to the Board's goals for the full duration of this school year. Thank you so very much for your unwavering support of our efforts over the last five years.

Sincerely,



Glenn Gelbrich
Superintendent