



Dear Washington Community:

This school year will culminate my 18th year in the School District of Washington and nearly 30 years of service in public education overall. As your superintendent, I have tried to lead with the highest of integrity and have enjoyed much support over the years. I am truly grateful for all of the opportunities afforded to me and this wonderful career.

The people I have worked with internally are to be commended, as they all have played a huge role in our success. It takes teamwork, work ethic, dedication and so much more to truly move forward and accomplish great things. I have been blessed with a strong Board of Education throughout my time here, which is extremely important as it leads to longevity and synergy.

Such strengths should continue as the District moves forward. The leadership team, staff, and students have been tremendous; it has been a great run, thank you. In addition, I have forged great relationships with community members, city employees, public officials and so many others that have been gracious in their support of the District and my decisions.

At this time, I am announcing my retirement from education and the School District of Washington at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, as I will be pursuing other professional opportunities, beyond that of education. It truly has been a privilege and honor to serve the students, staff and community here.

Interestingly enough, the Class of 2021 entered kindergarten during the school year in which I became superintendent. I guess you could say I will graduate with them! We have accomplished a great deal together.

The District is in a good place, and thus, it will be a good time for a transition in leadership for the 2021-2022 school year. I will gracefully lead through this pandemic and the new construction. Please know my early notice is considerate of the time the Board of Education needs to plan forward and adequately work through the selection process. I am happy to support the Board in their quest for the next superintendent, in whatever way they find appropriate.

My hope for the School District of Washington will always be continuous improvement, innovation that drives student success, and on-going Blue Jay pride!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori VanLeer
Superintendent of Schools
School District of Washington