



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

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Dear Little Silver Public School Community,

I recently informed the Board of Education that I will retire from the Little Silver School District effective June 30, 2020. Having spent 13 years of my career here, it is with appreciation and a heavy heart that I have come to this important life decision.

I have had the opportunity to forge many relationships; therefore, I have many to thank. First, it is with sincere gratitude that I thank the members of the Little Silver Board of Education with whom I've worked over the course of my tenure in the district. They afforded me the opportunity to facilitate three strategic plans during my time here that enabled us, as a school community, to set the vision for an extraordinary educational journey. Little Silver continuously receives accolades for educational programming and high levels of student achievement. Our district pride is grounded in a plethora of accomplishments which would not have been realized without Board and community support.

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. I have been extremely fortunate to work with an exceptional group of administrators who have never allowed obstacles to stifle progress toward our district vision. They work tirelessly to support the teachers and students of Little Silver. I am proud to call them my teammates. Their collective work is exceptional, and is realized by the positive impact on our students.

Learning does not occur in a void of relationships. The teachers of Little Silver have a keen understanding of the importance of developing significant relationships with the students and parents they serve. Their dedication to the district and the children of Little Silver is second to none. I've never known a collective faculty who devotes an extraordinary amount of time outside of the school day to support student growth and development. The staff's willingness to come in early, stay late, and attend a multitude of district-sponsored events is commonplace here. Professionalism in Little Silver is extraordinary. Our teachers' passion for creating a culture that meets the needs of all students is beyond commendable. It has been a privilege to work alongside them.

I would like to thank the support staff of Little Silver. Our Instructional Assistants continuously demonstrate a dedication to the children they serve. They are kind, supportive individuals, and we are fortunate to have them. Our office personnel create welcoming environments for staff, students and community even when they are juggling multiple balls in the air at one time. Our technology department, a subset of two, manages the work of many and they continuously do so with a smile. Our lunch personnel from *Simplified Culinary* are part of our family and have created a lunch program like no other. Lastly, our maintenance staff and custodial department cannot be overlooked. They take pride in our physical facilities, ensuring that the environment is fit for the staff and children of Little Silver.



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Our district is blessed to have *many* educational, community, service organizations, local government agencies, businesses and individuals who work in partnership with our district and schools. The Little Silver PTO and the Education Foundation of Little Silver work tirelessly in their fundraising efforts to support district programs and resources. The Town Council, Mayor Neff, and the Little Silver Police Department have worked in partnership with the school district in good times and bad. Together we weathered the challenges of difficult times and celebrated the achievements of our students. I thank all of our educational partners for their dedication to our school community. You have clearly demonstrated that an engaged community, who works together for the betterment of the district, is a powerful force!

I would like to extend a special thanks to our families for entrusting me with your children. When one holds a position that requires much decision-making, it is impossible to ensure the outcomes will please everyone. As I've maneuvered through a litany of issues over the past 13 years, you have challenged my thinking, provided thoughtful alternatives to difficult problems, and most importantly, provided me the great responsibility to enable your children the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We often say that teaching is a calling. As teachers, we enter into education because of the students. Therefore, I want to thank the children of Little Silver. I am continually inspired by your curiosity and talents. My visits to your classrooms are *always* the highlights of my day. I've said many times that Student Government Day is one of my favorite days of the year because I have the great privilege of working with inquisitive 8th graders with thoughtful resolve.

The word "retirement" seems counterintuitive to me. As I shared with my colleagues, after 32 years in public school education, I am looking forward to ending "Chapter 1" and beginning "Chapter 2" of my life. As Natasha Bedingfield wrote, "I'm just beginning, the pen's in my hand, ending unplanned." I am blessed to have had an incredible public school career. I will treasure the fond memories of my time in Little Silver. I have grown as a person and leader during my time here. I will carry with me the numerous relationships I've developed. While I'm staring at the blank page before me and the opportunities that await, I feel confident that the partnership between staff and the school community at large will continue to provide the outstanding education the children of Little Silver deserve.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools