



February 15, 2017

Dear Pelham Community Members:

It is with the greatest of mixed emotions that I share with you today that I will resign my position as Superintendent of the Pelham Public Schools, effective August 16, 2017. I will be appointed Superintendent of Schools of the North Shore Central School District and I expect that the Pelham Board will accept my resignation on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. This was not a decision that I came to easily and is a very personal one that will ultimately provide me with an opportunity to achieve greater balance between my work as a school leader and my primary role in life as a partner and father to my family.

Over the past six years, four as your Superintendent, my work in Pelham with all of you has been some of the most rewarding of my 24 years as an educator. Together, we have set out on a course of continuous improvement for our schools. We have committed ourselves to sound pedagogy that has purposefully led to joyful teaching and learning. We have built and continue to plan for exciting programming and learning opportunities for all students. Because it is as important as academic achievement, we have thought about student learning with an innovative, growth mindset and focused on social emotional-learning as a core component of our instructional program. Our successes together are many.

I want to thank the Board of Education for their partnership. They are a thoughtful and committed group of individuals who have provided the District staff with the support we need to be successful and I have enjoyed working with them very much.

I extend this gratitude to all of the former Boards as well. Each has taken meticulous care of our schools and ensured that we have the resources to do our work with precision. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to be on a governance team with each of them and am confident that they will continue to provide excellence in stewardship to the Pelham Public Schools.

I have said it to you a million times, and I'll say it again, the Pelham administration, faculty, and staff are the finest, most dedicated, and talented group of people I have ever come to know. Their commitment to our students and our community is awesome and inspiring. On a personal level, I extend my gratitude to so many of you who have taught my children, aided their achievement, and even guided them through a tricky moment of growth here and there. I know that hasn't been easy for you. Please know that as parents, you have our most profound thanks.

I also extend my thanks to this wonderful community for affording me the opportunity to be a small part of this awesome whole we call Pelham. It has been a marvelous ride and I have appreciated your support of our work and the challenges you have presented to stretch my thinking. Our schools are better because of our collaborations.

Pelham's students are individually and collectively some of the nation's finest. This engaged and thoughtful Pelican Nation inspires me to a higher standard of excellence each and every day. They have been a source of joy for me and absolutely, the very best part of my work.

In closing, I look forward to the next six months. We have much work to do and I will be focused on ensuring that this transition is executed with precision and care for our students. Please know that I am highly invested in the Pelham Public Schools. As someone who will continue as a member of this community, I will remain deeply committed to our public schools. Pelham's success is all of our success, and I look forward to being a part of it as a community stakeholder in the years ahead.

Go Pelicans!!

With warmest regards,

Peter Giarrizzo, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools