

Plainville Citizen Op Ed, March, 2016

To The Entire Plainville Community,

I hope you'll forgive me, but this month I will use this opportunity to share a more personal rather than professional message with the residents of Plainville. As many of you know by now, after five years of serving as your Superintendent of Schools I will be leaving Plainville in late April. I have been given the opportunity to serve as the next Executive Director of *Education Connection*. This organization is one of six Regional Education Service Centers (RESC) in the state of Connecticut, and serves over 35 school districts in the northwest region of our state. The Plainville community and school system have been so good to me, but this is an opportunity I simply cannot pass up. Still, the decision to leave is the most difficult one I have had to make in my career. Leaving Plainville is only made easier by the knowledge I have of the incredible people that will be here to continue the progress.

I am extremely proud of the work our board of education, administration, faculty and staff have done over the past five years. This school system is filled with talented and dedicated individuals who make decisions and take actions each day with one common purpose, serving the children of Plainville. This community is unique in our state, because of the level of support and collaboration that has been established to address both school system and community interests. Most cities and towns in Connecticut struggle to provide quality educational opportunities for students, while at the same time honoring the needs and concerns of taxpayers. Plainville is different. Plainville is getting it right.

Throughout our state, and across the country, we see many examples of other communities where citizens, parents and even faculty members are quick to voice mistrust or criticism of school administration. During my five years in Plainville I've experienced the complete opposite. Parents here trust and appreciate the school system. The citizens understand the important place the schools hold in the community, and they support our efforts. This is validated by four straight years of Board of Education budgets approved on the first town-wide vote. Our administration, faculty and staff are creating a positive culture and climate within our schools that is rarely seen in other communities. Our schools are great places to work and to learn. Plainville is getting it right.

I cannot possibly thank the people of Plainville enough for the kindness, support and commitment you have given me over the last five years. I must take one final opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the many board of education members I have had the privilege of serving during this time. Individually and collectively, they were always supportive and helped me learn and grow as a superintendent. Finally, I need to recognize the dedication and talent of Dr. Maureen Brummett. In Maureen I had the most talented and capable Assistant Superintendent possible. I am certain Plainville now has the most talented and capable Superintendent possible. I am comforted by the knowledge that the school district is in great hands.

Again, I thank the Plainville community and wish you all the best.