

Dripping Springs

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oct. 26, 2020

Statement of Todd Washburn Regarding Resignation:

When I accepted the position as superintendent of Dripping Springs ISD in November 2019, the world was a different place. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, I have been inspired by our teachers', staff and students' incredible resilience in the face of so many difficulties. I am truly amazed by their adaptability and accomplishments. This unprecedented period has allowed me to contemplate the present and future for both the school district and myself.

The superintendent's role is exceptionally demanding and requires a leader's full devotion of days, energy and talent to the board, students, staff and community. Over the past 11 months, I have given my heart and soul to honor this responsibility. Like many of you, family health circumstances during the pandemic have caused me to pause and re-evaluate my professional and personal priorities. Occasionally in life – especially during such complex conditions – it becomes apparent when the profession and the person may expect something different of each other. This is one of those moments.

After reflecting on and discussing these professional and personal contrasts with my family, I have conceded it is in the best interest of students, teachers, staff and community for me to permanently step away from the superintendent's role. Understandably, this is a challenging phase for everyone even without a change in leadership. I want this transition to take place as smoothly as possible. I believe that making this transition promptly is the right thing for the school district and my family.

Over my 30-year career in education, I have been blessed with various opportunities, both as a teacher and administrator. I take pride in giving my absolute best in every situation. As a servant leader, I have and will always put students' and teachers' needs first, above all else. Despite this unanticipated turn of events, I remain committed to that mission. I am grateful to the students, teachers, staff, residents and board for supporting Dripping Springs ISD as it navigates these times and this change to be the preeminent school district it desires to be. This is a special place and I want nothing but the best for our campuses and community.

Statement of the Board of Trustees Regarding Superintendent Resignation:

After considering Mr. Washburn's proposal to transition out of his role as Superintendent, we have determined that accepting his resignation and hiring an interim superintendent as expeditiously as possible is the best path forward for the District. We thank Mr. Washburn for his contributions to public education over his career and during his time at DSISD. Further, we appreciate his efforts since March to ensure that learning hasn't been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board agrees with Mr. Washburn that the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the tremendous resiliency and adaptability of our teachers, staff and students. We are so proud of the dedication of all our employees and the love they show DSISD students in all they do. For Mr. Washburn, as a first-time superintendent, transitioning during a pandemic proved to be difficult. Given all available alternatives, the Board believes this decision to be the best path forward for DSISD. The Board wishes Mr. Washburn well in his future endeavors.