

December 11, 2015

The last 14 years serving the Washington Local community have been the most satisfying, rewarding, and successful of my 29 years in education.

To the students of Washington Local -- I will miss you. Each one of you is sunshine and hope and love in my life. You are amazing people from beautiful families. Love does not die, and my love for you will be in my heart forever. You have made me love life in powerful and eternal ways.

To my team and the teachers and support staff of Washington Local -- I love you! You are what make us "not normal." It is your love, your care, empathy, and compassion for our kids that is the wind beneath our wings. You know that the kid in front of you may just be a kid in the world, but to mom and dad and grandma and grandpa, they ARE the world. I will miss each of you in varied and different ways. ALL of you have made a profound impact on me.

To the parents in the Washington Local community -- You are the most supportive, enthusiastic, loving, and compassionate school community in the country. I was humbled to walk with you, laugh with you, cry with you, and love you. Your children were my sole purpose, my focus, and my passion. We encourage our students to find their passion and to fuel it. Your kids were my passion, and together we loved them, lifted them up, and assisted them to their destiny.

To those of you who are disappointed in my decision -- Know that I can never repay your love, support, dedication, courage, and loyalty. The last two years have been difficult, painful, and taxing. I spent inordinate hours defending myself and our work. My family suffered from horrific rumors and innuendo about their dad and husband. The dad and husband they know was not the person being vilified, mocked, and ridiculed. I apologize to you that I could no longer subject the people I love to the evil and viciousness that seemed to never end.

To my family -- Thank you for being a superintendent's wife and a superintendent's kid. I would not wish that on anyone. My love for you fills my heart to overflowing, it brings me to my knees, and it literally sustains me. You are my reason for breathing, and I will redouble my efforts to love you powerfully, unconditionally, and passionately.

I wish nothing but the best for Washington Local Schools. Together we accomplished unprecedented success. The success we had seemed complex but it was really very simple -- love kids unconditionally, lift them up, fuel their passion, embrace their beautiful diversity, and celebrate their families.

My hope is that with my departure kindness -- simple kindness -- can fill my gap.

Sincerely,
Patrick Hickey