

To the D303 Board, Students, Staff and Community,

Effective immediately this letter serves as a resignation from the St Charles D303 School Board. My experience with this school board has been a growth experience, for which I am extremely grateful. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the students and watching them soar off into the world year after year, has definitely been the highlight.

I have been involved with service to D303 for over four decades. This district is more than some schools and teachers, it is the foundation to this community built on integrity and history. Over the course of my tenure of the last 5 years on the D303 Board of Education, I served as President, Vice-President, Chair on almost every committee and Board Member. I had an ambitious list of goals for our board to implement. A number of changes had us shifting the direction of the district to be more accountable to the board and community members. I created a team environment that presented a new mission statement, goals, agreements, and strategic dashboard. I was an innovator in a team of people that created an alternative high school learning environment for students to thrive that needed an alternative setting to succeed. Another goal I had was to put together a team of individuals who brought a diverse constituency representation of our district demographics and created a citizens action committee to weigh in on the various concerns across the community. I developed several new avenues of communication, community engagement, transparency, and opportunities to see boardwork in motion, such as meeting summaries, board notes. I developed new evaluative processes and practices for our district leadership and superintendent. I created an environment of collaborative intergovernmental relationships and legislative relationships to bring the community together and work toward common goals. I helped create the framework for a long term study of our facilities and their efficacy in education. Also refining processes and bringing on new vendors for engineering, equality work and others. I emphasized the focus on mental health in our schools, athletics, substance use, acceptance, and transitions from one academic level to another. I help forge the foundations for special education, safety, behavioral, and discipline task forces including the voices of parents, teachers and students. All while leading the district as one of the lowest taxing districts in the county, fulfilling their steadfast commitment to being responsible fiduciaries of taxpayer monies.

The most valued part of my tenure are the relationships I have built while on the board, and involved in the district. Community engagement became a focus for me from the very start and the importance of hearing the voters' voice. The most significant achievement in any organization is building relationships in its community, this community for which I have been a part of for almost 50 years. Students, parents, teachers, neighbors and friends; it is the people you cherish in a public service position. It was my pleasure to dedicate my time to hold leadership positions on this board, and be an example of professionalism for my fellow board members. I hope I have knocked down doors for others to walk through. I know that many skilled members will come after me, and I hope they show the position the respect it deserves.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the love and support you have given me, the board, the district, the kids, during the good times, and during the challenging times. As I have said many times, we do the work to help the kids. It is the kids that matter. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Board Member over the years and return that love and support to students, parents, staff and community. No matter where my journey takes me, St Charles and D303 will always be my home.

Godspeed  
Carolyn Waibel