



RESPONSIBILITY | COURAGE | HONESTY | RESPECT

March 3, 2022

Dear Sherman School Community,

I am writing to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as Superintendent-Principal at The Sherman School effective June 30, 2022. Since I was appointed to this position six years ago, I have had the honor and pleasure of working with a committed Board of Education, a caring staff, supportive families, and dedicated students. I am proud of what we have accomplished together.

One of my first tasks when I was hired in 2016, was to articulate a shared vision and create a strategic plan which consists of 4 elements, 13 goals, and 58 action steps with a five-year implementation timeline. As of this date, we are on target to complete our plan one year ahead of schedule, and we have done so while maintaining a flat budget for five consecutive years. Thanks to the hard work of everyone in our school community, we have managed to achieve these ambitious goals while keeping The Sherman School open for teaching and learning throughout a global pandemic.

Over the past 18 months, the Board of Education has become concerned about the cost of operating and managing our school given our small size and declining enrollment. The Board has discussed on several occasions the need to retain an outside consulting firm in order to conduct a comprehensive audit of our district's operation. This includes the structure and size of our administrative team and instructional programming. Recognizing the Board's desire to evaluate our model, and the likely transition to a part-time superintendent, I initiated formal conversations with the Board of Education in October 2021 regarding a possible leadership transition plan and shared my intent with newly elected board members in December. I feel like now is the ideal time to resign to create a smooth and orderly transition, and to support the Board's efforts in creating a new operating structure.

For the remainder of this school year, I will be working with the Board to ensure that The Sherman School continues to provide a high-quality education for our students. Some of the key tasks include:

- Assisting the Board in identifying and on-boarding a part-time, interim superintendent who will begin on July 1, 2022
- Recommending the promotion of Brian Kalkreuth, our current Assistant Principal, to Interim Principal effective July 1, 2022
- Ensuring our 2022-2203 budget maintains the programs and supports that have been developed until a new strategic plan is adopted
- Budgeting funds in 2022-2023 to engage a consultant who specializes in operations to conduct a comprehensive audit of our administrative and instructional model, as well as to engage the Sherman community in the creation of a new strategic plan
- Serving as a liaison between the Board of Education and the interim superintendent to ensure that the leadership team is fully functional and ready to take over on July 1, 2022

Even though the Board voted to extend my contract through June 2024, my resignation is voluntary and amicable. I thank you for your partnership over these past six years and am excited to see what awesome opportunities are ahead for The Sherman School.

Sincerely,

Jeff Melendez
Superintendent-Principal
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