

Outgoing Board President Betsy Shaughnessy's Comments – January 3, 2023

Thank you to my fellow Board members. They have operated in the best tradition of Lakewood Boards by demonstrating commitment to and respect for our students, staff and the Lakewood community. Each member of the Board brings unique skills, experiences and perspectives that enable the Board to operate in the very best interest of all our students and the school family that supports them. School board members must work together if they are to be effective, and individual members must work hard to understand all aspects and all implications of the actions being considered or adopted. Mutual respect has been a hallmark of successful Lakewood Boards, and the members of this Board have certainly met that standard.

Thank you to Superintendent Niedzwiecki for her leadership and for the superior team she has assembled. The Superintendent and her team have maintained a consistent focus on the goals of the organization – on academic rigor and excellence and the well-being of each individual student. They have kept the District on target while navigating the multiple issues that arise on a daily basis. They have worked every day to make each child's life better, happier and safer.

Thank you to Treasurer Zeman and the excellent team he has assembled. His integrity and his determination to support District initiatives while maintaining fiscal stability has been invaluable. He has provided oversight of the utilization of the federal relief funds. These funds have been very helpful to us in addressing pandemic-related expenses including those programs addressing learning loss. The installation of a new payroll system by his staff has benefitted our staff and improved operational efficiencies.

This year has been a year of District action on numerous fronts. A strategic plan has been developed with significant input from the Board, staff, parents and community; and during the past year, specific measurable goals were identified and initiated. We continued to communicate with the City Council and the Mayor to identify and act in areas of mutual interest and in support of a strong and vibrant city. We continued the ongoing process of providing a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

I am so grateful that I have the privilege of being a member of this Board and have the opportunity to continue to work on behalf of the Lakewood City Schools. I look forward to working with Mr. Callahan who I am sure will do an exceptional job as President as we work to continue to meet the needs of our students. While we will be working in the face of increasing assaults on Local Control by forces in Columbus, I have every confidence that this will not prevent us from continuing our commitment to integrate our Visions of a Lakewood Graduate and of a Lakewood Educator into our culture. The components of our Visions are integral to creating the environment needed by students and staff to assure success.

Again, thank you to all who work to create an environment in which children can thrive and excel. Special thanks to Anne Knab and Heather Burdette for all they do.

Betsy Shaughnessy
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