



HATCH VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2019

Dear HVPS Board of Education;

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my official letter of resignation to you.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you and previous board members for accepting me into such an awesome community. I have had the opportunity to work with fabulous; board members, staff, parents, booster club and community members.

When I first arrived in Hatch in 2006, I watched a small community literally “Rise Up” after a devastating flood. People worked together to repair and improve their village.

We have seen progress with our facilities over 13 years; an expanded School Based Health Center, a new vocational building and equipment, Pre K classroom addition, turf fields for soccer, baseball and softball, a new concession stand & bathrooms, a new central office, safer bleachers, tile flooring in most schools, the middle school’s “red walls” and polished concrete. The *Polar Express*, new suburbans and now building a bus maintenance shop. We have replaced roofs and swamp coolers at MS, Rio Grande and Garfield Elementary and are constantly repairing asphalt. Every student has access to a computer, more quality sound systems, increased internet bandwidth, soon to be fiber to Garfield and open Wi-Fi for student access. Our schools are more secure with “buzz in” systems, more cameras and truancy staff. More choices in the cafeteria-SFE.

While in Hatch I have witnessed “The community wide pride” as we celebrated State Championships in Football, Volleyball and Cheer, as well as several district championships and many state “playoff runs”. Our athletes are often recognized for their sportsmanship, the greatest win of all! Several activities have gone on to compete regionally and nationally; Science Olympiad, Best Robotics, Educators Rising, French Club, FFA, and our new Trap Club! Thanks to the cooperation with the Village, our children are learning to swim! Many of our schools have gone above and beyond with grants and awards, both State and National; College Board AP Honor Roll, NASA Program, STEM Grants, NMSU Pre Engineering Prep, Trio, professional baking & GRADS. National Honor Society’s trips and always willing to do fundraisers to help those in need. The Governor & Secretary’s visits to award excellence at HES & HVMS.

I will never forget the sights, sounds of the horns, and the smell of Diana’s chili & others cooking when tailgating, while Cuca roamed the sidelines for that perfect picture. I was always ready for the complaints from the opposition about the Hatch being too loud and I was always prepared to respond with “Yes, isn’t it great?!!”

Our staff “walked the talk” when the budget was tight. 100% of staff agreeing to take a furlough day rather than cut student programs. The community has always supported our Bond and Mill Levy Elections. In Hatch our students are the priority and it shows!

We advocated for children statewide as we took the time to speak out and testify at the legislature and support the lawsuit for more funding for our at-risk students. The ruling on the Sufficiency Lawsuit (Yazzie/Martinez) means there should always be a sound budget to provide staff and students the resources they need to do their work.

I will miss our coming together to celebrate the new beginning and conclusion of the school years. I loved recognizing staff for their accomplishments, tout their years of service and pay tribute and roast the retirees and of course giving those great door prizes and cash awards, all again, thanks to our many supporters!

Thank you again for your kind words and recognition at this year’s breakfast. I didn’t do any of the things you mentioned alone. I can’t put into words my deep appreciation, (how many times can you say thank you?) but I am really thankful for the support I have received both personally and professionally. You have always been there during both the district’s and my own personal very difficult times. Budget cuts were a mere inconvenience compared to the tragedies we endured with the loss of life of staff members, students and loved ones. However, as a team, as a family, we pushed forward and ultimately “carried on”.

Although I am disappointed we have not yet met our academic goals I know the district is running on data to continue to monitor student achievement. This is a credit to your leadership and demand for the “facts” and taking the time to ask the right questions about the data. I am very thankful for our “staff buy in” and Board support for programs like; University of Virginia Turnaround Schools, Teachers Pursuing Excellence, Principals Pursuing Excellence, K-5 Plus, Extended Learning as well as the use of shared data & technology on Canvas and Google Drive.

My hope is that we (because I have done nothing by myself) have built a foundation of district systems and processes. Systems that can be enhanced, so all student learning will improve to meet our loft goals and “ALL Students will be Empowered to Succeed”.

I have loved the journey we have been on over the past 13 years. It is time for me to step away but, the Hatch Valley Public School Community in the *Chili Capital of the World* will always be a home in my heart. ¡Los Osos! ¡Muchas gracias por todo, sinceramente! Thank You So Much for the Opportunity!

Carry On!

Linda Hale

Thankful to have been
Superintendent for the Hatch Valley Public Schools