

July 20, 2020

Dear OBEN Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news that I plan to retire from the position as your Superintendent of Schools effective December 31, 2020. While I truly love this position, and moreover our amazing learning community, an incredible opportunity has presented itself to me.

Effective January 1, 2021, I will become the Dean of the College of Education, Information, and Technology at Long Island University (LIU) for both the Post and Brooklyn campuses. In this role I will lead the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Education, and the Palmer School of Library Science and Information, and thus continue my career in education and leadership that has spanned over 30 years.

I am truly grateful for the time that I have had in OBEN, what will be a total of 12 and a half years, including 7 and a half years serving as the proud Superintendent of Schools. I am deeply humbled by the experience I have had to lead this very special district, and I remain totally committed to my tireless efforts in this role through December. This includes our ongoing and collaborative work to plan for a safe re-entry to our schools in the fall and a smooth transition to the Board of Education's selection for its next Superintendent of Schools.

This is truly bittersweet for me. I am very excited about my new position and grateful to LIU for selecting me for this critical role. I am also appreciative for the willingness of the LIU administration to have an interim Dean serve through December so that I can remain here in OBEN at this critical juncture.

At the same time, I am truly sad to leave all of you, people who have become such an immense and important part of my life. I think you know that I try to live by the motto to "choose kind" and I thank you for all the kindness, support, and partnership I continue to enjoy. I am thankful to so many here, the supportive and visionary Board of Education, our incredible students and their caring families, all members of the dedicated faculty and staff, and my administrative team, who are the best of the best and will continue to serve our beloved learning community with a relentless focus on excellence for ALL students.

I am not yet saying goodbye and I look forward to seeing you in the fall, if not sooner. In the meantime, please accept my wishes for a summer of good health, safety, and much joy. Only the best to each of you, and your families. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

With deep gratitude,
Laura