

Graduation Remarks, June 30, 2019

Board of Education President John McEvoy

Good afternoon graduates, family, friends and faculty. Some good news for you...my speech is going to be short.



Graduates, you're off to a good start. Graduation is a great accomplishment. We are all very proud of you. Be proud of yourselves. Give yourself a pat on the back and revel in the here and now.

Take a moment to let the feeling soak in. Remember it as you look forward to your next accomplishment and carry this feeling with you. Set goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them. When you achieve the next goal, again, take a second, and enjoy the feeling of success and a job well done. With hard work, in time the accomplishments will become bigger and more significant. Now, sometimes we do just get lucky, but as Thomas Jefferson said, "I find that the harder I work the more luck I seem to find."

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. "Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes", noted Oscar Wilde. It means when somebody asks you if you have experience they are really asking you "Have you learned from your mistakes?" You *should* make some mistakes because that means you challenged yourself, you pushed yourself outside your comfort zone and you've tried something new. Listen, even Apple, one of the most valuable

and talented companies in the world, makes mistakes. Does anybody even remember the Pippin gaming console or the Newton personal device? Both forgettable junk that almost put Apple out of business. But Apple survived and prospered.

Remember only you know what inspires you and only you define your own dreams and successes. Success comes in many forms - not just a test score or a college acceptance, money or career. It can be about relationships or causes that are important to you. Don't measure your accomplishments against your classmate's or neighbor's. Your achievements are unique to you.

Very important. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Nobody expects you to know everything. Better you seek guidance early than to pretend you know what you are doing and do some real damage. Try to know what you don't know.

Now, while your busy with all of that goals and dreams stuff, please remember to enjoy each day and have fun.

As Castaneda observed, "We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves happy. The amount of work is the same."

Graduates, we know you will always make us proud, but, more importantly, always make yourselves proud!

Congratulations Class of 2019! Thank you!