

Dear Dansville Schools Board of Education:

I'm writing to you today with a profound sense of bittersweet emotion as I submit my letter of resignation from Dansville Schools. I'm naturally excited to pursue the next chapter of my career in education, but I am terribly saddened that my time here in Dansville has come to an end.

I want to thank the Board for your tremendous support that you have afforded me over these past eleven years. I am deeply thankful that your collective trust in me as an administrator was evident throughout my time here. I will always think fondly of you and your group mentality of 'doing what's best for kids first' which truly has stood the test of time.

I want to thank my staff for their support over the years and total commitment to Dansville's students. This is the hardest working group of educators and support staff I've had the privilege of being associated with. Their dedication to helping kids be successful and happy at school should never be doubted or questioned. I have learned so much from them, I can only hope they have learned a few nuggets here and there from me as well.

I want to thank my current administrative partners, middle school principal Tania Dupuis and superintendent Jennifer Wonnell. Their support and understanding of this difficult decision has been so helpful and appreciated. My decision to leave is in no way related to either of these exceptional leaders. Ms. Dupuis has been a rock for me to lean on for years, and I will be forever grateful for her friendship. Mrs. Wonnell will be a fantastic leader for this district and I'm excited to watch her take Dansville Schools into the next chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her these last few weeks.

Lastly, I want to thank my former teammates Erin Graf and Amy Hodgson. Erin inspired and challenged me professionally in ways that she isn't even aware of I'm sure. A tremendously perfect mix of goof-ball, creative thinking, fun loving, all about the kids professional. I doubt I'll encounter another colleague quite like her. Amy Hodgson has a heart and love for all things Aggie and all stakeholders of Dansville. Anyone who says differently didn't know the real Amy. She was the innovator, idea generator, envelope pusher with the latest research, technology, instructional programs, and on and on.... all while leading with a servant's heart that bled Aggie colors. One Board member stated a few months ago something to the effect of, "having Amy leave is one of the biggest self-inflicted wounds this District has ever committed." I couldn't agree more.

I'm beyond discouraged and frustrated at what has taken place in our school system since January 2021 when Mr. Stolz began his position on this Board. Due to his influence on my colleagues, my staff and even myself personally, I feel the need to move on in my career even though this was not my original plan or timeline. I was taught to not judge people, to give the benefit of the doubt and to assume good intentions of everyone all of the time. Well, I have exhausted all those affordances for Mr. Stolz who is the stone that has created the ripple of waves creating anxiety, distrust and heartache within in this district for the last year and a half, single-handedly cracking the very foundation of our district.

It's been unreal to watch this person, who has caused so much destruction to this district, to try to now act like everything is fine as he attempts to rewrite history and go so far as to portray himself as a victim while he continues to encourage and make up lies in an ongoing attempt to destroy good people. Strange response when our caring community is simply holding him accountable for his actions, trying to heal our district, through the seeking of his recall. I can personally attest, however, that in fact the same behaviors Mr. Stolz ramped up as soon as he was elected, have continued in spite of the façade he

would like people to believe. The most recent evidence of this was during the May Board meeting when Mrs. Stolz chose to read a written statement, publicly calling into question my judgment and my staff members' ability to handle a student situation without showing favoritism. Mr. Stolz saw the need to send an apology email to me and Mrs. Wonnell the next morning for his wife's words, which he claimed he had no knowledge of. The apology was a much-needed gesture for sure, but after such a public display of negativity and distrust, an equally public act, such as a retraction of that statement, would have been much more meaningful and helpful, Especially since my staff and I took every appropriate step, including meeting with Mrs. Stolz to assure she was satisfied with the outcome of our process after our investigation...which she told us she was. Regardless of the private apology, the damage had been done. More of the same kind of damage Mr. Stolz has caused for the past 18 months... The seeds of doubt had been planted. I can tell you that our School of Choice numbers are noticeably down in the elementary so far this summer and is it any wonder? People from all over mid-Michigan and beyond are watching how this drama unfolds. Even in the new district where I will be working, more than 2 hours away, they had heard about what has been happening here. I was shocked. The pressures that Mr. Stolz exerts on people are crippling to morale, job satisfaction, and enjoyment of this field that all of us, including all of these teachers here, chose to commit their lives to in order to serve your kids. Unconditionally. And it's my understanding that some folks in our community are now feeling that same pressure from Mr. Stolz personally as he has been showing up unannounced, sometimes with his wife and daughter, at their doorsteps to quiz them as to why they signed the recall petition, causing them to feel intimidated and afraid for exercising their rights to sign a petition. These encounters have been kind of helpful, as we are told that the community now better understands what many of us here have been experiencing since January of 2021.

In closing, please know that Dansville will always have a special place in my heart. We have persevered through many significant, district-altering events such as passing a bond, building tremendous facilities, building a spaceship simulator, reconfiguring education to make it accessible during a pandemic, and the list goes on and on. Those legacies will live on and surpass whichever wave of leaders may come and go and I'm thrilled to be able to say I was a part of those momentous events. More importantly, I'm proud to say that I got to work alongside so many amazing staff, students and parents during my tenure here. I will always think fondly of this community and think of myself as an Aggie!

Sincerely,

Andy Cox