

August 1, 2019

Dear Dr. Stamm, and Board members:

Effective August 5, 2019, I am resigning my position as School Director for the South Williamsport Area School District. I have served on the board for the past 8 years and for 6 of those years it was an enjoyable experience and felt that I was serving the community to the best of my abilities.

For the last 2 years I have served as president of the board. While I knew it would be challenging, I had no idea of the effort that would be required. For the last six months, I have easily spent 20-30 hours per week on board issues. The constant conflict and personal attacks have spilled into my personal life, and is beginning to affect my physical health. Two years ago, the board significantly changed, and I met with all members, both old and new, and hoped to form a cohesive board that would continue to serve the community. I have not been able to do that, and the board continues to become more and more divided. Personal agendas abound, and members do not want to follow traditional board procedures. This is the most dysfunctional group that I have ever been a part of and I do not have a solution to bring it together. One member refuses to speak to the Superintendent on any issues, EVER. Members question \$15 charges. No one trusts that a committee can perform their task in an unbiased manner. Basic accounting and math have to be explained repeatedly.

There are incredibly important decisions that will be made over the next few months, including new construction, a new teacher contract and a bond issue. The board needs to be united on issues of this magnitude, and I do not believe that this board is capable of doing that. The purpose of the board is to guide the school, set big picture goals, etc. We are unable to do this because we are constantly stuck in the every day minutiae of running the district and debating irrelevant topics. I would highly suggest that both current and future board members attend the PSBA training for new board members so that they can begin to understand the real purpose of a School Board.

I still believe that most members are well intentioned, and that the board can regain their purpose and find a way to become a functioning board that will serve both the community and the students. I just can not be a part of that board.

Regards,



Chris Branton