

March 9, 2014

Evanston Community,

I am pleased to introduce myself to the Evanston community. The process of finding the next Superintendent of Evanston/Skokie School District 65 allows for the District to engage stakeholders in a conversation about what is important now and in the future for the District. I am excited to be a part of that conversation and I am grateful to all of you for taking the time to learn more about me.

I was a PreK-12th grade music teacher and still try to find time to perform with our students when possible. Teaching PreK-12th grade allowed me to understand both the learning process throughout our educational system and also the value of student engagement. Success with my students was due largely to their commitment to our art. As an administrator, I am fortunate to have served as a principal of an elementary school, a principal of a high school, and as a superintendent of a K-12 unit district. I currently serve as superintendent of Skokie/Morton Grove District #69. I have lead school systems in both rural and urban Illinois with a wide diversity of ethnic groups, financial backgrounds and community expectations. I am honored to have led two school districts that have made significant improvements in all measures of student achievement, while attaining "Financial Recognition" status from the state.

In 2010, District 69 had experienced several years of declining student achievement scores in many subgroups, across several subject areas and in all buildings in the District. The District was also in the worst financial shape in several years despite realizing a phased-in referendum. The student achievement and financial obstacles created an opportunity for administrative change and district reorganization. I am proud that four years later, District 69 students have seen remarkable gains in proficiency levels. We have met our five year financial goal of 30% end-of-year fund balances in three years. We were recognized by the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the State Board of Education for our ELL (English Language Learners) program restructuring and tremendous success. Along the way, we achieved AYP for our ELL subgroup for the first time in the history of the District. We have ample evidence of closing the achievement gaps for every subgroup in the District. Further, through program restructuring and grant-writing, District 69 has improved its financial standing by several million dollars. Our Board of Education has earned the *Governance Recognition Award* for the 2012-2013 School Year and was recognized at the Joint Annual Conference in November 2012. The District 69 Board of Education and School District was recognized by the National School Boards Association in a featured article titled "Agents of Change" in spring, 2013. It has been a tremendous privilege to lead our Board of Education, administrators, teachers and community through these difficult times and it is with great pride that I share our accomplishments.

My commitment to my community is equal to my commitment to schools. Strong schools are built upon a foundation of a strong partnership with the community. I was named "Rotarian of the Year" in 2010, serve on the community council of Y.O.U., belong to the Chamber of Commerce, support the Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie and work in partnership with the Skokie Village, Library and Park District. I take great pride in all of my relationships - not just with the organizations, but the people who serve.

I have an indomitable sense of optimism and an almost endless supply of energy. I show unwavering dedication to my family, my work and my community. Most often, this gives others hope and success tends to follow. I am a lifelong learner who is committed to my own personal growth, as well as that of others. I look forward to great success for Evanston District 65.

Yours in Education,

Quintin Shepherd, Ph.D.