

December 18, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

When I began my tenure as part-time Interim Superintendent of Schools in Canterbury I didn't anticipate the horrible weather we have experienced and its effect on my plans to meet you and learn about the district during my first weeks. I am sure it has also been a disruption for all of you.

I start my work in Canterbury with a great deal of optimism and look forward to working with the education community in providing an outstanding education for all the children in the district. Bringing stability and a leadership style that is inclusive, transparent, collaborative and honest is what I can offer the Canterbury School District. I look forward to working with the newly elected Board of Education including Nancy Duvall, Chair; Tom Dufort, Vice-Chair; Laurie Marquis, Secretary; Katie Logan, Stacey Brueanux, Julie Lippke, and William Sweeney in providing our schools the positive direction and support that our children and families expect and deserve. The entire education community needs to inform and encourage our efforts over the next weeks and months.

My thanks and respect go to Neil Rinaldi as he ends his service as Interim Principal at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School this week; we welcome Garrett Dukette who begins his position as the new principal on January 2, 2020. Recruitment of staff to fill the other vacancies, safety and security and budget are my top priorities.

During the new year I plan to visit all of the classrooms, get to know staff and programs as well as observe, chat with, and learn about our wonderful students.

Please accept my wishes for a restful and enjoyable holiday time for you and your families.

P.S. Hope for more agreeable weather in 2020!

Sincerely,

James A. Connelly

Interim Superintendent of Schools