



# WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D. – Superintendent

January 13, 2016

Dear Beecher Road Families:

January 2, 2016 marked the beginning of my 11<sup>th</sup> year as Superintendent of the Woodbridge School District. Beecher Road School is a jewel. It is a wonderful microcosm of what education in America should be. It is more than a physical facility. The school is a vibrant, diverse learning community comprised of a committed, highly qualified and intelligent group of administrators, faculty members and staff. They care deeply about children and about the work that they do. The results show. These past 10 years have brought me a great sense of professional fulfillment as well as personal joy in serving the children of Beecher Road School. My work in Woodbridge has been exceptionally rewarding. After much thought and serious reflection, I have decided to retire effective June 30, 2016.

I care a great deal about you and your (our) children. It will be hard to leave in June. However, I will do so having absolute confidence that the administrative team, the faculty and staff of BRS are well postured to bring the school to new heights of excellence. The shared vision of BRS is clear and well established. Productive, well connected collaborative teams of educators are working closer than ever to improve the quality of education at Beecher. There is an outstanding team of teaching specialists and curriculum coordinators that are actively supporting the teaching and learning process in every classroom of our school. Processes and systems are in place. Themes and structures for embedded, on-going professional learning for teachers and staff are well established. Growth model accountability structures for educators have been developed, and are being implemented. Connections with outside cultural and educational institutions are in place.

In addition, the many unique features of BRS will continue, e.g. Multi-Age Program, Extended Day Program, the Readers and Writers Workshop model, Art Studio, the dynamic and ever growing music program, the multiple dimensions of a comprehensive physical education and wellness program, a proficiency model world language program. BRS will continue as a leader in the Arts as well as a leader in the use of technology as a tool of instruction, offering more student choice, accelerated learning as well as many opportunities for creativity and innovation. New 2-year action plans are being completed in mathematics, school climate and technology. BRS is more than one person. You and your children are BRS. The administrators, faculty and staff are BRS. Everyone and everything at BRS fits together in a dynamic organization that is self-renewing.

As we seamlessly turn one page and continue to write the exciting book called *BRS*, I am announcing my retirement early in the New Year. With this, the Board of Education will have ample time to conduct a comprehensive search for a new superintendent. An outside consulting firm will be hired to assist. All stakeholders will be involved. You will have a chance to voice your opinions as to the qualities that you want in a new superintendent. The district is attractive and desirable. I have no doubt that there will be many highly qualified candidates.

The Woodbridge School District is very fortunate to have a Board of Education – past and present – comprised of intelligent, dedicated members who care deeply about children and service to community. These elected leaders with whom I have served, and with whom I presently serve, have given generously of their time and unique talents. Over the past ten years, the Board has demonstrated positive guidance in supporting and enhancing the quality of education in Woodbridge. I express my deepest gratitude to them all for the backing they have given me during my tenure. In addition, our PTO is and has been a constant supporter of our school district and school. I have been inspired by the service of the many PTO leaders and volunteers over the years, and am grateful for their support and their many contributions.

*Woodbridge School District*

As an educational leader, it is a privilege to serve in a town that values education. Woodbridge is a dynamic town that places children and families at the center, and, in the historic New England tradition, believes very much in volunteerism, deliberative discourse and involvement of its citizens in all forms of decision-making and service. It has been a pleasure working with Town Boards and Departments over the years in a strong partnership that has brought many benefits to the citizens of Woodbridge.

With your continued help and support, be assured that I will be working as hard as ever in the coming days and months to make BRS an even better place for children and adults. Our journey goes on. I offer my personal gratitude to each of you for the respect and support you have given me. I will cherish every remaining day of my tenure in Woodbridge. May the New Year bring you all peace, hope, good health as well as fulfillment and joy!

With my greatest respect and sincere good wishes!



Guy Stella  
Superintendent

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