

POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11 College Avenue, P.O. Box 3010, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 / Telephone: (845) 451-4900 / Fax (845) 451-4955

Robert C. Watson Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Karen A. Markeloff
Assistant Superintendent
for Instruction

Fern Aefsky, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
for Pupil Personnel

Jeffrey M. Baker, C.P.A.
Business Manager

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Dear Staff:

How the time has gone by! I am in my 6th year as the Superintendent and my 18th year as an employee of the Poughkeepsie City School District. Together we have accomplished so many initiatives for our children, our schools, and the community.

Let me take a moment to highlight some of our accomplishments from the past six years:

- **\$27 million Building Plan initiative completed on time and under budget. After a public defeat on the acquisition of real property for a building plan, I proceeded to come up with a Plan B. This resulted in a successful \$27 million building plan bond, three (3) additions to our present sites, along with every building in our district receiving renovations.**
- **Contract settlement for two major units prior to expiration and resulting in 5 year contracts and thousands of dollars in district savings. This has never been done in the history of the Poughkeepsie City School District. As a result, the positive morale of the district has been sustained.**
- **A 9th school building added to our school system resulting in the ownership of our special education population. This is a testament to our ability to build meaningful relationships with local businessmen and government officials.**
- **Excellent initiatives and relationships with local institutions including:**
 - Marist College
 - Vassar College
 - Dutchess Community College
 - Bard College
 - Bardavon
 - Children's Museum
 - Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Dyson Foundation
 - Community Foundation
 - Family Services
 - Mill Street Loft
 - Catharine Street Community Center
 - ERVK
 - Many others

Local community organizations and businesses now believe that it is their role to be actively involved in supporting the Poughkeepsie City School District.

- **State-wide and national additional revenue, programs, and support from:**
 - **Senator Saland's Office**
 - **Senator Clinton's Office**
 - **Congressman Hinchey's Office**
 - **State Education Department**
 - **Discovery Channel**
 - **Time Warner**

- **Our district in the past six years has received fair and, in many instances, remarkable press. It speaks to how diligent our district has been towards achieving its district goals while dealing with an extremely challenging population with many variables that are outside of our control.**

Can you recall the last negative and unfair article written about our school system?

With our district in such an improved state, I have decided to pursue other passionate interests. I have finally decided to seriously dedicate professional time to educational writing on best practices for teachers and administrators. Presently, I have completed several books that I am hoping will be published soon. Maybe one day I'll be on the Oprah Winfrey book list for educators!

Additionally, I also have an insatiable need to work more closely with children and staff to help create concrete front-line successful models. I love working closely with children! This will be a clear pursuit of mine in the distant future.

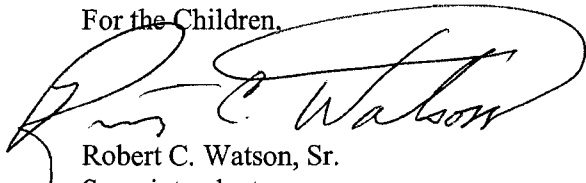
So by now, I am certain that you realize that I am moving on from the Poughkeepsie City School District. I never thought I would be saying several months from now that I will be part of the incredible history of this phenomenal district. I would love for our collective contributions to afford my name to be listed with other great Poughkeepsie Superintendents such as Edwin Hunger, James Clark, and Matthew Clarke to name a few.

I want to thank local community-based organizations, businesses, and colleges for their meaningful relationships with the Poughkeepsie City School District. Our collaborations have afforded the children and families of our city to be better served. It is my hope that these relationships will only deepen for the continued success of our community.

Finally, I deeply appreciate the Board of Education's desire and support in me remaining the Superintendent. Our Board's unprecedented leadership in moving the Poughkeepsie City School District forward for the past six years has been remarkable. Without their guidance and support, we could not have enjoyed the enormous successes that have been accomplished.

Since I am a native of the City of Poughkeepsie and this will always be my home, when it is time, I will never truly say "good-bye". Instead, I wish to say I will see you or hear from you soon.

For the Children,



Robert C. Watson, Sr.
Superintendent