

TONY SMITH, PH.D. Superintendent

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April 4, 2013

President Kakishiba,

My father-in-law was recently hospitalized and is in poor health. Kathleen and I have decided to move closer to family in Chicago so that we can be there to help and so that our daughters can spend time with their grandparents.

As a result of this decision, my last day as superintendent of the Oakland Public Schools is June 30, 2013. I am proud of the incredible work we have accomplished together and believe the Board, with your leadership, will continue on a positive trajectory. Since the district returned to local control four years ago, we have made great strides in academic outcomes, fiscal solvency, community engagement, and organizational coherence. While there is still much work to do, the district is well positioned to achieve the objectives outlined in the balanced scorecard and meet the goals described in our ambitious strategic plan.

Oakland can be proud of the stability and quality of district leadership, a strong and aligned Board, committed family and community leaders, strong philanthropic support, and nationally recognized district initiatives. I have no doubt that Oakland Unified is ready for the work ahead and will continue to become the strong public system Oakland students and families deserve.

I feel very privileged to have been part of bringing quality and stability back to Oakland Public Schools. The decision to leave at this time is very difficult. However, my commitment to my family first means this is the right decision at this time. I believe in Oakland, value my relationships and our community, and will always be an ally in the effort to create more opportunity for Oakland children.

With deep respect and appreciation,



Tony Smith