

Gloucester Public Schools

Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners

Richard Safier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

2 Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: (978) 281-9800/Fax: (978) 281-9899

Email: rsafier@gloucesterschools.com

November 15, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of my intent to retire at the end of this school year, a point in time that coincides with the end of my contract. I first want to state that working here in Gloucester has been an honor and a privilege. Having first seen the advertisement for the position of superintendent back in the winter of 2010, I was excited at the prospect of becoming directly involved in the civic life of the City where I live (and have lived since 1978). As an educator applying for the position, and as an aspiring superintendent, I was keenly interested in playing a lead role in promoting the best interests of the district, and most particularly, the best interests of the students of the Gloucester Public School System.

Throughout my time here, the district has sought and continues to address the educational requirements of the day, the Common Core Standards, the development of aligned curricula, research-based instructional practices and assessments to both enhance and monitor student progress, the adoption of best practices and programs for meeting the social and emotional needs of children, and an accountability system predicated on constructive feedback and professional growth. All of our efforts in these areas, however, have been student centered and focused on children, first and foremost. What I have listed above are a means to an end, an end that continually makes us work smarter on behalf of your children. The work reaffirms our commitment to strong Literacy and Math programs, along with Science, Technology, History, Art and Music, Health and Wellness, and College and Career Readiness, etc. The essential point of our efforts has been to engage our students in daily critical thinking, problem solving, and inquiry-oriented experiences which develop each child's capacity for both understanding and toward the expression of those understandings. I can say with confidence that the district has the means and the will to do so.

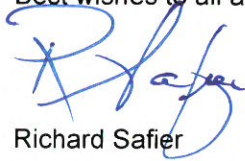
I want to reaffirm what I believe you already know, that we have an outstanding workforce of teachers, principals and administrators. The same holds true for our support staff as well. All are dedicated to meeting the educational, academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of your children. The work that these professionals do is the basis for each step in your child's (or children's) intellectual, social, and emotional growth. That growth has been our focus, our center of attention, and our primary mission. In so doing, our efforts have been intended to be a reflection of the care and concern that you hold for each of your children at home.

I have an "ask" of you. What I ask is for your continued and ardent support for not only your child's or children's education, but also for the Gloucester Public Schools. The work that educators do is challenging in many, many ways. Your support for these professionals, therefore, is paramount. It is, ultimately, the community that provides the energy, the guidance, and the direction for our schools. And,

in turn, it is the schools which prepare students for their entry into the community as fully-responsible adults and citizens.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this educational community both as superintendent, and as a resident of the larger community. And so, as I move onto other challenges and interests, I will take keen note of my role in supporting public education here in Gloucester and in public education's role as the lifeblood of the community.

Best wishes to all and thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Safier". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Safier