

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BERLIN, Wis., June 26, 2012 -

Dear Parents:

You may have read in the newspaper or in other media that we have an unusual number of retirements and resignations in our school district. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional clarifying information.

As of today, we have 48 staff resignations and retirements as compared to 30-35 in previous years. It was speculated in the June 26 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article that about 1/3 of our staff would leave which would be 110 teachers. Staff has until Thursday, June 28, to notify the district of their intent to retire or resign without financial penalty. Typically, 3-10 others will leave before school starts for various reasons. Therefore, our anticipated turn-over is approximately 50-60 staff members for the year.

Through informal exit interviews and other information we learned that about 15 of the staff members are leaving because of disagreement with changes. New Berlin has been in front of many changes in recent months, such as:

- Lengthening the school day
- Increasing student contact hours
- Standardized evaluation procedures
- Implementing a new employee handbook
- Teacher leadership assignments on committees

Most vacancies have already been filled through a rigorous recruitment and selection process. We are welcoming individuals who we believe will complement our existing staff to educate our students.

I want to recognize the excellence that has become a hallmark of our district and express appreciation to the many dedicated professionals who have built this tradition, both currently employed and those that have left us this year and in prior years. We continue to be dedicated to a continuous improvement process that will benefit our schools and community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Joe Garza
Superintendent

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