

March 9, 2022

Members of the North Kingstown School Community:

I am writing to announce my resignation as Superintendent of the North Kingstown School Department, effective immediately. Our school community is working through its investigation around allegations involving Mr. Thomas at NKHS, and I respect the importance to move forward with a new district leader who is in no way connected to these matters. For my response to Mr. Thomas, I remain steadfast in the knowledge that I acted appropriately and immediately in the best interests of students past and present, with the information I had at the time, and I stand by my remarks made at our November 16, 2021 School Committee meeting. To paraphrase from that statement: I want our students to have a school experience where they know they are safe and they know they can trust in the adults who oversee their education, and I am dedicated to doing whatever needs to be done, including now to offer my own resignation, to make sure NKSD has the trust of our community and to support our students, past and present, to learn from this, to process, and to heal.

I want to thank the North Kingstown community for giving me the honor of leading this great district for the last eleven years as your Superintendent and two before that as your Assistant Superintendent. I have been truly fortunate to work with outstanding district leaders, principals, teachers, and support staff who continue to impress with their expertise, commitment, and professionalism. Our community needs to renew its appreciation for this great school department which has distinguished itself in so many ways: high academic achievement, Blue Ribbon Schools, award winning programming in athletics and the arts, thriving career and tech programs, and several successful bond initiatives which have produced (among other things) a beautiful modern high school building, major upgrades to several of our schools, and a new track and field at NKHS. Our school system is among the best in the nation, and we are blessed to live in North Kingstown and to have so many tremendous educators and passionate citizens working to keep it that way. In all of our disagreements, we all need to come together in our commitment to supporting NK's two best assets, our school department and our children.

As for me, I will miss the many NKSD friends I have grown to love and respect as we have worked side-by-side all these years. I remain open to many possibilities for my future, and I will approach them with confidence and with pride for what I was able to contribute to this great school community.

I wish you all the best.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Auger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Auger, Ph.D.