

Hamilton School District

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Dear Hamilton School District Community:

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write to let you know that I have requested that the Board of Trustees terminate my contract as Superintendent by mutual agreement. This request follows my decision to continue my growth as a leader in Montana education by pursuing a Youth Program Manager position with Western Montana Mental Health Center.

While the primary goal of this message is to encourage the District to look forward to the bright future that is surely yet to come, I would be negligent if I did not take this opportunity to reflect and thank the Hamilton community, students, teachers, staff, and administrators for making these past 12+ years such a fulfilling and productive period in the history of Hamilton schools.

Together, we have achieved remarkable things for our students, staff, and community. For example, with the community's support and generosity, we built the Sports Complex and brought Daly Elementary up to modern learning standards through renovation and addition. Additionally, we are one of the first Montana schools to offer its community a public charter school where students will be able to pursue career certification and early college. This enhancement of the District's curriculum will serve countless students and this community well into the future.

We also persevered through extraordinary times during the Covid epidemic. As a result, Hamilton School District is one of the few Montana schools that is better off fiscally (and by enrollment metrics) following Covid and its related historic inflation, than before. This result was not achieved by accident, but through the hard work, courage, and dedication of our Board, teachers, staff, and administrators.

There are many more outstanding accomplishments we achieved together throughout my time with Hamilton School District, however, I am most proud of improving teacher and staff compensation to one of the highest rates in the state; far outperforming the District's revenue as compared to other Montana school district. It is my hope that Hamilton School District will continue to be a leader in compensation for the benefit of its dedicated employees and their families.

I thank you all for the privilege of serving you during the most significant and rewarding experience of my career as a public school administrator and I wish Hamilton School District all of the very best as it moves into the next chapter of leadership. I look forward to cheering you on as a community member – Go Broncs!

Sincerely,
Tom Korst

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