

School Board President Bill Dwyer's Huntington High School Graduation Speech - 2010

Thank you for the introduction Lori.

On behalf of the Board of Education I'd like to welcome everyone to this year's commencement ceremony. I extend this welcome to members of our central administration, to our high school administrators and faculty, and most importantly, to our graduating students, your family and friends.

I'll be brief in my remarks for I know that the longer I speak, the more your thoughts will wander towards the plans you've made for the rest of the evening...the celebrations you all so richly deserve.

As you sit there in your caps and gowns, allow your thoughts to wander back for a moment and reflect on what you've accomplished. You've mastered reading, writing and arithmetic, history, science and foreign languages. In doing so you've had the benefit of dedicated and experienced teachers willing to challenge you to learn, at times, more than some of you would have preferred. Many of you have taken advantage of the tremendous arts, music and athletic programs the district maintains. Also, In your time here at Huntington High School you've matured tremendously as individuals. How many of you looked at the incoming freshman at the beginning of this year and wondered whether a Finley bus had mistakenly dropped its kids off at the wrong school? Well, let me assure you that when you were freshmen the seniors thought the same thing about you. But you have grown, and as you've grown you've learned to enjoy the additional freedoms you've been granted and the responsibility that comes with them. The knowledge that you've

gained from your studies along with all of the other personal experiences you had as a member of our school community have prepared you well for whatever comes next in your life. So, while the diplomas you will receive this evening signify that you've completed all of the academic requirements for graduation, understand that they embody much more.

Your high school graduation is a like a waypoint on a GPS navigation unit plotting your journey through life. It's a point that marks the divider between the travels you've completed and the miles that lie ahead. Some of you may have your unit already programmed to a specific destination, set with the map display zoomed way out so that you can clearly see where you are now, where your destination is as well as all the roads required to get you there. And some of you may not have any destinations programmed in yet. You have that display zoomed in real tight so that all you see is the road right in front of you and you proceed eagerly forward in life waiting to see what opportunities pop up on the screen next. Either way you've reached a waypoint in your life's road trip and it's good that you take some time to appreciate it.

From here you begin the next part of your journey. That may include going to college or a trade school, or you might go right to work. Whatever it is that you choose do so knowing that you are well prepared for what lies ahead of you in life.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I'd like to congratulate you, the graduates and your families, and wish you the best of luck going forward.

Make us proud. I have no doubt that you will.