



Dear Huntington Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

I am genuinely grateful and honored to serve as Superintendent of the Huntington Union Free School District. I am eager to begin our work together in building upon a strong educational foundation, the rich history and traditions that characterize our schools and community, and the sense of family and pride shared by the diverse individuals and groups within.

Critical to the success of students within any school district are shared vision and collaboration among vested factions, and partnerships between individuals and groups within the school community. If we are to effectively prepare our students for the challenges that lie ahead in post-secondary academia and within a 21st century workforce and global society, our most comprehensive and unified efforts are needed. In this regard, I have begun my entry process by meeting with staff members and members of various stakeholder groups. I plan to continue such meetings in ongoing and continuous fashion.

I have carefully considered the above in developing a cohesive set of goals and objectives for myself as the incoming District leader. As delineated within my entry plan, these goals are as follows:

- Develop and ensure effective District governance through meaningful and positive Board of Education-Superintendent-community relations;
- Increase achievement levels for all students;
- Improve public trust, commitment, and confidence through open and honest communication and actions;
- Examine current status and identify additional opportunities to increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency, as well as fiscal responsibility;
- Establish a supportive and positive District climate and culture, focused on promoting student achievement;
- Establish a clear and definitive strategy to address perceptual and factual issues related to school safety, security, and climate for all schools.

I intend to use sound judgment and thoughtful decision-making as we implement carefully considered short-, intermediate-, and long-term strategies in an effort to achieve these goals.

It is no secret that schools and districts across New York State currently face unprecedented economic challenges. Through prudent fiscal management and the implementation of a transparent budget process, we will surely make every effort to weather the storm in a manner that strives to maximize efficiency in resource use while maintaining the integrity of our instructional programs in all schools and at all levels. It is my firm belief that the district should serve as a catalyst in providing the means for uniting school community members and organizations so that we can effectively harness the talents and assets among them. In turn, this will allow us to pursue a path of ongoing improvement and high expectations, and to continue providing the best education for every child. Our students deserve no less.

I encourage you to visit our website routinely. It is among the best in the nation in terms of sharing important information, news, and achievements associated with our district, schools, students, and staff members. In addition, it is my hope to become acquainted with as many Huntington families as possible in the weeks and months to come. I plan to circulate among our schools regularly, establish a schedule of open forums, and to frequent district events. I ask that you please not hesitate to seize an opportunity to introduce yourselves or to call my office and schedule a time to do so more personally.

Again, I am enthusiastically looking forward to working with you and to serving our school community.

Respectfully,

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools