

To our SPPS students, families, community and staff:

We are writing to wish you and yours the very best of the season and to express our thanks for all you do to show love and support to our SPPS family.

2020 has been a year without comparison. Complex. Confusing. Scary. Unprecedented. There really aren't any words to adequately describe what these months have meant and the impact they've had on all of us. As individuals, we have each felt the magnitude of this past year. As a Board, we are unwavering in our commitment to our students, our support of our educators and our partnership with administrators. We learn, we adapt and we remain steeped in our guiding values:

- Achievement
- Communication
- Continuous Improvement
- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Inclusive Culture

While what has happened in 2020 has been significant, the way SPPS has responded has been truly amazing. One of our peers, a school board member named Ken Buck in South Carolina summed up many of our feelings in a social media post last April:

"We gave educators almost no notice. We asked them to completely redesign what school looks like and in about 24 hours local administrators and teachers "Apollo 13'ed" the problem and fixed it. Kids learning, children being fed, needs being met in the midst of a global crisis.

No state agency did this, no so-called national experts on curriculum. The local educators fixed it in hours. HOURS."

We are so incredibly proud of the collaborative, student-centered approach SPPS has taken. This district has proven repeatedly that when we work together, we can accomplish good things and create positive results for our students and families.

To our students and families we sincerely say 'thank you'. We know the hardships and uncertainty this pandemic has brought. We also know that you have many educational choices; and by choosing SPPS, you are placing your trust in us. We are committed to meet these hardships as a community and to earn your trust as we walk through the uncertainty together towards the end of this pandemic.

We are so proud of everyone in our learning communities and we are optimistic about what is to come. As we look forward to 2021, we know we will celebrate our accomplishments and meet our challenges together with great love and determination. We are stronger together than anything that seeks to pull us apart and we must be because there's nothing more important than the future of our young people.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your support and our sincere wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

In partnership,



Jeanelle Foster, Chair



Zuki Ellis, Clerk



John Brodrick, Treasurer



Chauntyll Allen, Director



Jessica Kopp, Director



Steve Marchese, Director



Jim Vue, Director