

PRESS RELEASE OF ANNETTE D. KNOX

Pursuant to a settlement agreement in principle that I have reached with Camden Board of Education, I will be resigning as Camden Superintendent of Schools, effective June 30, 2006. My resignation is contingent upon all necessary approvals of the final settlement agreement being obtained.

Over the past 5 1/2 years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve the Camden Board of Education, the Camden School District and all of its children. During my time as Superintendent, I have had the pleasure of serving the Camden community and working with all of its dedicated and talented teachers, administrators and Board members.

I make this much plain to all: I have served Camden's School District as Superintendent with professionalism, diligence and integrity at all times and in all respects.

I am proud of the achievements that have been made in the Camden schools during my tenure. These achievements have included:

- the improvement in standardized test scores in both language arts literacy and mathematics at the elementary school level,
- the use of 21st century technology in classrooms,
- research based textbooks, instructional programs, initiatives, and professional development for all staff,
- the addition of MET EAST (big picture school),
- establishment of a foundation dedicated to enhancing the experiences of students in special areas not included in the budget,
- a new District-wide grading system, and
- establishment of a new human resources, fiscal, and student information computer center.

Now it is time for me to leave, but only because it is also time for the School District to pursue its mission for all the children without the distractions of hearsay and history that have come to occupy us recently.

In departing, I challenge the people of Camden to do all they can to support their schools, their teachers and the school administrators. I challenge all the School employees and administrators to continue to improve the quality of education in Camden, and to continue the legacy of seeking to create an institutional culture in Camden that fosters, rather than impedes, the accomplishment of this objective. I challenge the Board to keep the Camden schools free from the divisive influence of politics. Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served Camden, its schools and its children.