

June 13, 2013

Dear Dr. Skelly:

I am writing this letter to inform you of my resignation from the Principal position at Palo Alto High School, effective 6/28/13, with retention of my permanent employment with the District in a certificated spot.

I have enjoyed my tenure as an administrator in PAUSD for the last 7 years, and will value these years professionally and personally. However, my role as an administrator has not come without sacrifice. I have made significant sacrifices as a father, spouse, and person in order to fully and successfully fulfill my duties to the District. As I have shared with District leadership repeatedly in the past, and specifically this year during my end of year review, I have worked diligently to find better work-life balance. However, in order to meet the demands and responsibilities of the job, which my positive reviews reflect I consistently have, this balance has been near impossible.

As you are aware, I recently had a life-threatening medical illness. This caused me to seriously reevaluate my priorities, health, and personal and professional goals. At this stage in my life, spending time with my family and having a better work-life balance are my top priorities. I owe it to myself and family to protect my health which it difficult to do in a job that never sleeps. The job of a High School Principal is non-stop and demanding.

My passion has always been the classroom, and I am thrilled about going back. In addition, I am excited about being part of a school community as a teacher and being challenged in a new and different way. I will be an asset to a school and will continue to be a dedicated employee of this District.

During the transition I am willing to assist the incoming administrator of Paly to make the changeover as seamless as possible. Paly has been my heart and soul for the past three years and my departure will be bittersweet. I am confident the school will continue to excel because of the staff, students, and the team that I helped build. I only want to see great things for the school and our District. I am committed to working with the District to ensure minimal disruption in the community.

I appreciate your support and understanding of this decision. Please know that this decision was not made lightly and I appreciate you respecting my personal and professional reasons. The move will allow me to return to my love of teaching and working directly with students who need additional support.

I look forward to continuing to be an asset to the District as we work together to ensure all students succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Winston", written in a cursive style.

Phil Winston