



To the Nicolet Learning Community,

Over the past few years, I have penned many letters and notes to you, my Nicolet family, for whom I have had the pleasure of serving as your superintendent. Most of my messages have been celebratory given our many successes; others were composed in an effort to inform, explain, and yes, even comfort. Today, I have bittersweet news to share: I have been offered and have accepted the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of the Davenport Community Schools in Davenport, Iowa.

First, I am exceedingly proud to have served as the Superintendent of the Nicolet Union High School District. We have an award-winning school with high academic expectations such that:

- U.S. News & World Report once again honored Nicolet High School as one of the “Best High Schools” in the nation in 2018.
- Our school is nationally recognized for student achievement in academics, sports, creative and performing arts, and career and technical programs.
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released School Report Cards for every publicly funded school in the state, and I’m thrilled that Nicolet High School achieved a rating of “Exceeds Expectations,” scoring is 81.5 (out of 100), an increase of 2.8 points from the prior year and a total of 5.9 points increase since the beginning of my tenure.

On a personal level, my wife and I have loved being a part of this community. Our youngest daughter graduated from Nicolet in 2017 and is a proud Knight! The success we have achieved in this district through a collaborative partnership among students, parents, administrators, and members of the community is something I am – and always will be – very proud of. Nicolet's future is very bright and I have no doubt the trajectory will continue in a positive direction.

However, as an educator, I feel as though my work is never done. I take great pride in my current dual role of helping what are two academically successful districts (Nicolet and Fox Point-Bayside) maintain and grow their level of achievement, but “success” as an educator is just as much about helping other districts reach their desired level of achievement.

An opportunity to interview to serve as the Superintendent of Davenport Community Schools arose, and I felt called to learn more of the position. Davenport is a district very different than Nicolet. It has 27 schools and approximately 15,000 students. There are a number of challenges facing the district, as well as many opportunities for improvement and sustained success.



Through a robust interview and vetting process, I had the opportunity to meet dozens of Davenport Community School District stakeholders. A common theme during our in-depth conversations quickly became apparent; everyone in the community is committed to the success of the district and to the academic, social and emotional growth of each and every student. I believe my past experience and knowledge will allow me to help the Davenport Community Schools achieve their student-driven aims, as we have here on the North Shore of Milwaukee. I couldn't be more thrilled to have the good fortune to roll up my sleeves and work in concert with my new family in the greater Davenport area.

On a personal note, my wife and I are now empty nesters. Our six children live or attend school all across the Midwest, and Davenport, Iowa is very centrally located to all of our children. Our personal research, to include visits to Davenport, has us excited to join a vibrant and prideful community that cares deeply about their community and their children's future.

It would be a woeful omission, lest I neglect to offer my personal gratitude to the administration, faculty and staff members of Nicolet High School. From day one of my tenure at Nicolet, I was privileged to behold a collective commitment to accelerate the achievement of every student, in every classroom, every day. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment to excellence exhibited by my colleagues inspired me to be a better leader. I will forever be in their debt.

I have communicated my intentions to the Nicolet School Board and will work proactively with them to develop an interim plan that will provide seamless leadership to the district. Please know I have been truly honored to be the Nicolet Superintendent, and I will cherish the memories we've created and the success we've achieved.

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski

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