
March 9, 2020

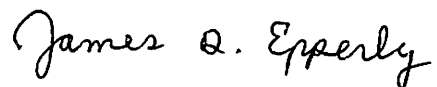
Matt Jensen
Bigfork schools
600 Commerce Street
Bigfork, MT 59911

Dear Matt Jensen:

Please accept my letter of resignation as K-12 Physical Education/Health teacher at Bigfork Public Schools. My last day will be June 2020.

Thank you for your support in creating a great work environment during my tenure. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in Bigfork.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Epperly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'D'.

James D. Epperly

Schuyler Tudor
108 Sunrise Terrace #C
Bigfork, MT 59911



March 9, 2020

Bigfork School District #38
600 Commerce Street
Bigfork, MT 59911

Dear Bigfork School District #38:

I will not be renewing my contract with the Bigfork School District after the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you for employment and the opportunity you have provided me for the last six years.

Sincerely,

Schuyler Tudor

March 11,2020

Dear Mr. Jensen and Bigfork Board of Trustees,

Please accept this letter as notification of my retirement with Bigfork Elementary School District. I will retire at the end of this school year and my last day of employment is June 12, 2020. I have genuinely enjoyed the time I have spent at this school, and I am very happy that I spent the last 25 years of my 35-year career in Bigfork.

I actually don't feel ready to retire, but the intergenerational needs of my family come first in my heart. My soon to be 87-year-old mother and my first grandchild to be born mid-May need more from me than I'm able to provide while working at this time. In order to give them the care they need, I am retiring.

In reflecting over the last 35 years in the classroom, it's amazing to think of the changes in education and my career, from 1985 to 2020. I started with 34 pairs of dark eyes solemnly looking at me with 11 different languages in first grade with the expectation they would learn English and be reading on grade level by the end of the year! I do love a good challenge. And with no computers or copy machines none the less. A good old mimeograph machine! While teaching in the classroom I became a Teacher Leader, teaching behind a glass wall in my classroom for teachers to learn how to teach literacy skills. Those 11 years of year-round school immersed in different cultures I found fascinating, but still a child wanting to learn. Then I moved my family back to my childhood roots and home of my heart, the Flathead Valley. I subbed in Whitefish and a ½ year in kindergarten in the canyon for Columbia Falls before starting a position in Bigfork. I had found my home. 18 students? Awesome! It was a joy to teach a Multiage Montessori classroom for so many years. I have taught all grades from K-6th, and most often with combined grades. People often ask, "What's your favorite grade?" I can't say I have a favorite grade, they all were, because it's not about the grade they're in, it's because they're kids!

I wish you and the students at Bigfork Elementary all the best in the years to come. I know you will hire a new teacher who has a true heart for children, and one who will be an inspirational role model.

I have already been recruited by several teachers to come back and volunteer in their classrooms. So, you may find me back for a few hours at a time, sooner than you think!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Trish Shults

March 12th, 2020

Dear Mr. Jensen,

It has been my privilege to serve and instruct at Bigfork Schools for over 20 years, and over 30 years in Montana at various positions that have assisted youth and students in need. It is with some reservation and concern that I now submit my resignation effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, contingent on receiving the retirement incentive offered to me and my fellow teachers on September 10th, 2020. I thank you for allowing me an opportunity to use my skills to establish a strong program that benefited so many children over the years that will indeed profit them in so many ways over their futures. However, I also feel that there is now a movement in education that dismisses strong character building methods and the teaching of basic logic and reasoning skills, but to focus rather on the ever changing emotional feelings of students and their relationships. It was self-evident to me that my elementary and middle school principals are heading in a different direction and will take little note of the successes and contributions of the past that have worked so well for so many generations. Nonetheless, I am happy to have served and have benefitted myself from the interactions of over two decades of service and contributions to this community, which has prospered under my tenure and care. I now look forward to my next career with vigor and enthusiasm and feel like the best, by the grace of God, is still to come. I have no regrets, and wish you and your staff the very best regards.

Most Sincerely,

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

Paul Pilskalns