

October 25, 2016

Ed Callahan  
W725 Haeussinger Rd  
Fountain City, WI 54629

Board President Ressie and Superintendent Hiebert –

I resign my seat on the Cochrane-Fountain City School Board effective immediately.

My decision to resign is not due to any one specific event, and I have been considering it for quite some time. The board as a whole has struggled to be a positive influence on this district for the past three and a half years. Productive conversations at board meetings and clear direction to the administration have been rare over that period. As a result, I struggled with the decision to run for re-election. In the end I hoped that some turnover of board membership would occur and that a more productive approach by the board would result. Also, helping deal with the long-range finances of the district was important to me.

Sadly, I have not noted enough of an improvement in board behavior as a whole. I no longer believe I can be helpful in moving this board forward or be a positive influence on the district working through the board. I don't think it is fair to the district or to me to continue serving in this atmosphere.

The majority of the board are thoughtful, professional, selfless and act with the best interest of the district in their heart. I am thankful for their service and I hope more community members with those traits step forward for board service. I am also thankful for our administration. Despite the hardship of the last few years we have a school district that is financially stable in a time of near-fiscal-hostility from Madison. The district has a vibrant and proactive teacher-led curriculum process. The district has prioritized professional development of its staff and looked to them for direction in purchases of classroom materials and technology initiatives. At the same time the district has maintained a healthy fund balance, kept taxes flat, paid-off a large and lingering debt that had been previously ignored and left to grow for years, and kept our facilities and bus fleet in order. And now the district is in the midst of taking a hard and intelligent look at the future needs of the district with an eye for not only the students in the building now, but those that will be here 10 and 20 years from now. We have our administrative team to thank for that, and a set of policies that have allowed them to do that work.

I truly hope that community members with a professional approach who can work productively and selflessly in a team, and can understand their role in an organization, will step forward and fill the seat I leave vacant, and run in upcoming elections. Members with more positive energy than I can muster anymore.

With Regret,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "E" and "C".

Ed Callahan