

August 25th, 2025

Springfield Public School Board
Superintendent Hamilton
Springfield Public Schools
640 A Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Subject: Resignation Effective June 30, 2026

Dear Members of the Springfield Public School Board and Superintendent Hamilton,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position with Springfield Public Schools, effective June 30, 2026.

This decision follows careful consideration and is the result of a board members actions related to a formal public complaint concerning the conduct of Board Chair Director Jonathan Light. The complaint, which is supported by documentation and communication records, outlines multiple serious concerns which I believe provide clear evidence suggesting violations of Board policy, the Board-Superintendent Operating Agreement, and potentially Oregon law including:

1. Interference in an active complaint process involving the Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
2. Unauthorized communication with ODE staff using his official Board title
3. Failure to disclose material information to the Superintendent and Board
4. Improper use of district resources and his Board position
5. Potential violations of Oregon's Public Meetings Law

After bringing forward concerns in good faith, I feel that I am being subjected to intentional retaliation and intimidation tactics through a board members action to disseminate privileged and confidential information prior to school board action. This information appeared on the Community Alliance for Public Educations Facebook page. This agency posted specific information related to this complaint to their 700+ followers and encouraged attendance at the upcoming Board Special Meeting in support of Director Light and to influence school board action by making clear to "district administration and the other members of the school board that the public is watching." These actions directly undermine the very protections that Board Policy: GBMA - Whistleblower is designed to provide. Such conduct erodes trust in our governance and creates a hostile environment that deters ethical disclosure and accountability. The violation of Board Policy GBMA not only impacts me personally but sets a dangerous precedent that ethical disclosure is met with intimidation rather than protection. These behaviors potentially expose the district to significant **legal, financial, and ethical** liability.

As a public servant of Springfield Public Schools for 29 years and committed to ethical governance, transparency, and the well-being of our school community, I cannot continue in a system where serious breaches of conduct are ignored, whistleblowers are retaliated against, and trust in leadership is compromised.

I am proud of the work I have contributed on behalf of students and families in our community and equally proud of the many dedicated educators and staff who serve this district with integrity. I will continue to conduct myself in the same professional manner which has guided my success for the entirety of my 35-year career and hope that I will be afforded the full support of the School Board and District against retaliation and intimidation efforts while being allowed to finish my service. In light of the current environment I believe resigning is the most principled course of action for me personally and I encourage the Superintendent to begin immediately planning for my successor to provide stability to the organization.

Please consider this my official notice of resignation, effective at the close of business on June 30, 2026.

Sincerely,

David D. Collins
Assistant Superintendent
Springfield Public Schools