

# School Board of Brevard County

2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way • Viera, FL 32940-6601

Desmond K. Blackburn, Ph.D., Superintendent



May 14, 2018

Board Members,

Please accept this letter as my official resignation from the position of Superintendent, effective no later than August 10, 2018. I have accepted an offer to become the CEO of New Teacher Center (NTC). NTC is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving student learning by guiding a new generation of educators. Founded in 1998, NTC works in conjunction with school districts, state policymakers, and educators across the country to increase the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders at all levels, with a focus on those working in underserved communities.

In just under three years, we have accomplished so much together. Academically, we have been state leaders in third grade literacy, sixth grade mathematics, the high school graduation rate, and college/career readiness. We were the recipients of three Blue Ribbon schools, an "A" rating by the Florida Department of Education, two high schools ranked in the top ten in Florida, and we increased ethnic diversity of our school/district leadership team. Operationally, we continue to complete 2014 sales tax projects ahead of schedule and under budget; we secured a \$1.6M legislative appropriation to enhance our vocational program; we implemented a Minority/Woman-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program; and reduced our long-term debt by \$10.6M. School year 2018-2019 will see the reopening of South Lake Elementary School and the launch of Regional Transportation. These two efforts will significantly increase equitable student access to rigorous academic programs; therefore, ensuring student access is not limited by geography or economics.

To my Space Coast family, the residents of Brevard County, please know that serving you has been an honor and an absolute pleasure. From my very first day, all sectors of this community have welcomed me with wide-open arms. You welcomed me into your businesses; you welcomed me into your community functions; you welcomed me into your fundraising efforts for worthy causes; you welcomed me into your churches; and you even welcomed me into your homes. You epitomize "class" and I will miss all of you dearly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Desmond Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Desmond K. Blackburn, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

