



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

October 8, 2019

Dear Willow Road Families,

Recently, the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen and Willow Elementary School experienced the departure of Physical Education Teacher, James Cundari. James Cundari was hired two years ago at .7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE). While we were sad to see Mr. Cundari leave, we appreciate that he was offered a full-time position at another district. Mr. Cundari served our students and families well.

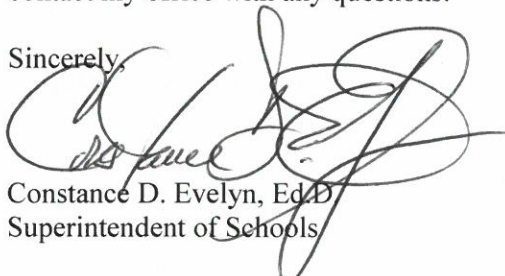
Following the announcement of Mr. Cundari's departure, there were some questions raised as to why the district could not do something to retain him. Staffing decisions across the district are made based on fair and equitable practices, the maintenance of class size as it relates to Board of Education Policy, and the retention of high level education programming.

Over the past five years, the district has experienced a decrease in enrollment numbers at all four schools. While the numbers continue to fluctuate and have trended upward at the Willow Road School in the past two years, overall district enrollment is still down. Throughout these enrollment fluctuations, we have continued to maintain high-level programs and personnel by consistently reevaluating our financial and human resources in order to maximize the utilization of both state and local resources. In our district, there continues to be positions that are school-based and educators that are shared across the district. As I communicated with some parents last weekend, due to our commitment to maintaining fair and equitable practices across our district as it relates to our fiscal and contractual obligations, Mr. Cundari's position was deemed .85 of a full time teaching position prior to the start of this school year.

Districts in New York State are continuously facing the challenge of capturing and returning talented educators. Nonetheless, we are certain that our hiring process will yield a high quality physical education teacher for our families at Willow Road School and a critical district team member.

We thank you for your patience and continued support during this time, and as always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools