

Ginger

From: Donnie Cook <donniecook@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 8:37:19 PM
To: Current Students <currentstudents@themsms.org>; Current Parents <currentparents@themsms.org>
Subject: Wishing you all the best

Everyone,

I can't believe that tomorrow will be a week since my termination at MSMS—it's been quite the whirlwind for me, and I'm sure that it's unsettling for you. Some of you are probably thinking "there's got to be more to it that he's not telling us." That's a valid thought, and I've outlined all the details, embarrassing or not, on a blog: <https://www.sciencechampion.com/blog>.

Students, my biggest regret is that I didn't get the chance to know you more. My job had lots of external responsibilities, and last year I was learning it, but this year I was determined to spend more time with you. Once we had all our Directors in place, I expected to have more time, but now that won't happen. Please know, however, that my unwillingness to go quietly into that goodnight is because I want the best educational opportunities for you. While much of what I was working on wouldn't have happened until you were gone, I am always one of you and I've had you all in mind when pushing to make things better, even if I didn't know many of you by name.

Parents, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve your students. I hope that they will have a truly exceptional experience at MSMS and feel that special bond for the school after graduation that only the alumni can fully understand.

My last action was an email to every lawmaker in the state. I was working on presentations for them anyway, so it was easy enough to share electronically. But if you get an opportunity to talk to your legislators, let them know what a special place it is and ask that they fully consider every option. I cannot understand why MDE was so adamant that the relocation option be silenced—I understand that it's been made clear that that option is dead.

I only pursued it because the students asked me to. Is relocation the best option? Not for me to decide; my intention was to fully flesh out what that would look like so that the legislature could decide. You'll see both sides presented in the Advisory Board report I prepared that's now posted on my blog.

If I can ever help any of you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Donnie Cook, Ed.D.

P.S. Be kind to Ms Tedder! She is one of us as well and is in a difficult position. She could use your support, I'm sure.