

Press Release

On July 27, Superintendent, Dr. Diane P. Cody announced her retirement from Evergreen Park School District 124 effective June 30, 2012.

“I love education and I love what I do. After careful thought and consideration, I made this difficult decision with the support of my husband,” said Cody. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends once retired.

Kathy Rohan, President of the District 124 School Board of Education said, “The board of education has regretfully accepted notice of Dr. Cody’s upcoming retirement, effective June 30, 2012. Hiring a superintendent is the most important decision a board of education will ever make. The board will conduct a needs assessment, with input from staff and the community, in order to create a candidate profile before interviewing applicants. Our goal is to make a decision in January 2012, with a start date of July 1, 2012. We appreciate the early notice that Dr. Cody has given the district so that we will have adequate time to complete a thorough search. Our goal is to find a candidate that is as qualified as Dr. Cody to help steer us through the challenges that lie ahead.”

“While in District 124, Dr. Cody emphasized accountability in all aspects of her work,” said Rohan. “The District has increased the use of data to support instructional decisions for staff and students. Changes in special education programming has supported adherence to state guidelines and best practices. The Board made difficult budget decisions. Under the direction of Dr. Cody, they created full-day kindergarten classes and enhanced technology through increased instructional time for students and improved infrastructure.”

Superintendent Cody states there is much more to accomplish this year and is looking forward to the challenges. Professional Learning Communities will be implemented this year, allowing time for teachers and administrators to work collaboratively to address student needs. This fall, the D124 Financial Task Force with members from all constituent groups will begin its work in examining methods to balance the revenues with the expenditures during very difficult economic times. Evergreen Park School District will continue the process to evaluate the facilities throughout the district and plan for the future.

Cody came to District in 2009 after serving as superintendent in the Winfield School District for six years. Previous to becoming a superintendent, she held the position of assistant superintendent, mathematics coordinator, principal, and teacher.

She earned her doctorate from Loyola University, two masters degrees from Northern Illinois University and University of Illinois at Chicago, and a bachelors degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Cody credits the strong support from the Board of Education, both past and present, in making changes throughout the district. “We worked together as a team while focusing

on student learning,” stated Cody. She added that the support she has received from Mayor Sexton and his staff along with the Evergreen Park residents has been rewarding.

“There have been many changes in education in the last few years with more to come in the future. I am confident the next superintendent will continue the current momentum while focusing on continuous improvement,” said Cody.