



Dear Friend and Colleague:

The purpose of this informal note is to advise you that State Superintendent Libby Burmaster has decided not to seek a third term of office. Libby will be announcing this decision via an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel today (Monday October 6).

While this news is a surprise, it gives us all a chance to reflect on the major accomplishments of her time as state superintendent. Libby has been a great leader and it has been an honor to serve with her as deputy state superintendent.

When Libby informed me of her decision not to run for re-election, I told her that I would be a candidate. Another purpose of this letter is to share that news with you.

I seek the office of state superintendent for a number of reasons. First and foremost, my years working in and for our public schools has instilled in me a firm and unshakeable belief that our public schools and libraries are central to our state's democratic ideals. In many ways, my life's work has been focused on this great ideal and in these challenging times, I feel a sense of moral and civic duty to seek this office.

In this way, I believe that there is no one else more qualified than me to be state superintendent. Through my experiences as a teacher, a principal, a superintendent, a CESA director and as the deputy state superintendent, I have served locally, regionally and at the state level, and have held various national leadership positions.

During my tenure as deputy state superintendent these past seven years, I have provided leadership not only to the agency but by reaching out to schools and communities across our state to seek solutions to some of the most difficult and politically-charged issues we face. As state superintendent, I will do the same when I hit the ground running after taking office on July 1, 2009.

Finally, my life story includes my beating cancer. The impact on battling and ultimately defeating cancer has had a profound impact on me. I feel as if have been given a second chance and I plan to make the most it. To borrow from Franklin Roosevelt, it is my personal "rendezvous with destiny".

The success of this campaign will depend on all of us working together. I will be in touch in the near future regarding events to raise awareness of my campaign and the resources necessary to compete and win. To be sure, there is much work to do to ensure our state's education future is sound.

With that, I ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Tony Evers for State Superintendent