

thank you

Friends,

In January of 2023 the Washington Township School Board will welcome a new member to the Board. I am confident that the then-newly constituted Board will continue to accomplish great things for our students and their families and will continue to support our talented and hard-working teachers, administrators and staff.

While I am disappointed in the results of the recent election, my heart is full of gratitude and love for the women and men who worked so hard (and so well together) on our campaign and who made the campaign about the issues rather than demographic differences between the two candidates. Although my name was on the ballot, from the very beginning our campaign was about the community which we call home. Our campaign was animated by the hopes and collective effort of our volunteers and the community members who put signs in their yards, who shared their support on Facebook and other social media, who talked with their neighbors and friends, who passed out fliers during early voting and at numerous polling places on Election Day, and those who contributed financially to the campaign.

Special thanks to Grace, my wife of thirty-seven years and partner in all things, who supported (or at least did not object to!) my running a fifth time for a seat on the Washington Township School Board, to my daughter Leah Licklitter and her incredible oldest daughter (my oldest grandchild) Caroline Licklitter, who worked together at the polls on Election Day (Leah also working during Early Voting) supporting their Dad and Papa.

I am particularly grateful to the three remarkable women, Shelley Hake Clark, Taryn Withers Greaser and Crystal Paschal, who truly were our campaign's head and heart. Their intelligence, knowledge, creativity, work ethic, clearheadedness, kindness, and their ability to get a great deal accomplished in a short period of time inspired me during the campaign. I owe them so much.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the other members of our campaign committee including Laura VanderHaeghen (WTEA Vice President), Janet Eichenberger (North Central High School Teacher), Sarah Huffman (Nora Elementary School Teacher), Stacie Hamilton (Nora Elementary School Teacher), Sarah Childers-Strawbridge (former Fox Hill Elementary School PTO President), Patricia Cominsky (former Willow Lake Elementary PTO President), Kelli Baumgarn (former PCN President), and Sherry & Mark McCabe (parents of three North Central High School graduates).

I sincerely appreciate having received the endorsement and support of the Washington Township Parent Council Network and the Washington Township Teachers Association (on behalf of I-PACE), the two organizations which for literally decades have vetted and endorsed School Board candidates, as well as the endorsement and encouragement of my four fellow Board members who will continue to serve with distinction the community we are all fortunate to call home.

*thank you*

Thanks also to the individuals who publicly endorsed my candidacy, some by submitting videos which our campaign posted to Facebook and included on our campaign website, including former Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz, State Senator Greg Taylor (also a Township Parent), State Representative Carey Hamilton (also a Township Parent), State Representative Ed DeLaney, City County Counselor Dan Boots (Township Parent of four NCHS graduates), MSDWT School Board President Tracey Horth Krueger, MSDWT School Board Vice President Deirdre George-Davis, MSDWT School Board Secretary John FencI, MSDWT School Board member Bill Turner, WTEA President Anthony Dean, Joyce Click (Retired 44 year NCHS Teacher), Tom Gayda (NCHS Teacher), Emily Hodson (Allisonville Elementary School Teacher), Washington Township Advancement Center Past President Tim George, PCN President Brian Henry, former PCN President Shelley Hake Clark, former PCN President Crystal Paschal, North Central PTO Board member Robbie Lopez-Shue, Past Willow Lake Elementary PTO President Patricia Cominsky, Past PTO Co-President Claudia Williamson, Micah Peck (NCHS Class of 2021), Jonathan Schwartz (NCHS Class of 2017), Tina Juan-Roeder (Parent), Keri Hale (Parent), I also want to thank former MSDWT School Board members Tony Dzwonar, James (Jay) Hill, Ed.D., Cherri Harris, Deborah Mullen, Robert Taylor, D.D.S., and Cid McNeilly for their endorsements and of course for their service as Board members.

I also want to thank those who worked the polls during early voting and/or on Election Day including Tracey Horth Krueger, John FencI, Bill Turner, Val Boots, Shelley Clark, Taryn Withers Greaser, Kurt Greaser, Crystal Paschal, Stephen Turchyn, Barb King, Sherry Watkins, Susan Ross, Scott Hiland, Sherry and Mark McCabe, Brian Henry, Eric Broemel, Sara Lootens, Sarah Huffman, Tom Jenkins, Leah Licklitter, Caroline Licklitter, Dr. Sheila Akinleye, Jill Thrasher-Reid, Laura VanderHaeghen, Janet Eichenberger, Stacie Hamilton, Sarah Childers-Strawbridge, Randy Johnson, Charles Smith, Jennifer Forsee, Angela Tipton, Kate Branson and Kathy Null. Thanks also to volunteers who helped in so many different ways including Tom & Kathy Jenkins, Lindsey Kraick, Martin Kelty, Heidi Hoopingarner, and to North Central students Caleb Elser and Lex Greaser and Northview Middle School student Micah Paschal. I will also thank privately some folks who are not mentioned here.

While this was my last campaign for election to our School Board, I am so very proud to have had the opportunity to serve our community. I remain as proud of the District from which our three children graduated as I have ever been, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together and the District's ongoing efforts. Thank you for the chance to have served our remarkable community of students, parents and guardians, teachers, administrators, staff, and community members.

*Don Kite*