

December 5, 2018

RE: Extended Leave

Dr. Harbron and School Board Members

It is my understanding you wanted more information in order to consider my request for "Extended Leave" for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with Article VII, L, 7 of the DTU collective bargaining agreement.

During my 14 year tenure at SAU 11, nine of those years have been serving at-risk students directly and the remainder I continue serving our most needy students, my duty consists of administrative/discipline-behavior intervention.

In February of this year I suffered a concussion, the results of which continue to linger, I have changed, and am continuing to adjust. Teaching is a complex craft and I recognize a rest may help.

Unfortunately the district does not offer a paid sabbatical. As such in order to take "a break" from teaching I will need to find another job, as I cannot afford COBRA payments or household expenses since I am the wage earner for our household.

I have not begun a job search in earnest as this Board has not released me officially. I do know I wish to return to my original strength which is machines. I envision, field service, facilities or maintenance engineering. This will provide Dover students a two-fold benefit, a teacher who is rested or fresh and a more accurate picture of the demands of the world of work, which is more technology dependent than when I left field service in 1995.

My hope is to return with increased enthusiasm to the Physics classroom for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Thank you for considering this request.

Michael Russo