



March 15, 2023

Dear HJT1 Families & Community,

I would like to take the opportunity to share with you that I will be retiring as District Administrator of the School District of Hartford Jt. 1.

While the decision is bittersweet, I am grateful to the Hartford community for the opportunity to serve in this role for the past 20 years. You have given me the opportunity to meet many wonderful families, staff, school board members, business partners and community members.

In my career, I am thankful to have worked alongside countless professionals who care for the community's schools and work tirelessly to ensure the success of our students. I have experienced great joy, great challenges, referendums, a global pandemic, the addition of 4K and all-day kindergarten programs, and countless learning experiences. It has been an incredibly fulfilling opportunity.

Although my retirement is near, we still have very important work to do in the months ahead. I am working closely with the Board of Education and District leadership to ensure a smooth transition prior to my departure. I remain dedicated to the success of our HJT1 District.

Yours in Education,

Mark Smits, Ph.D.