

Garden City Public Schools
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For Immediate Release:

Saying Goodbye

As the school year wound down and thoughts turned toward saying a final farewell to Garden City Public School's 12-year Superintendent, Dr. Robert Feirsen, each school district group said goodbye in its own special way at the Board of Education's 2017 Retiree and Service Recognition Ceremony held on June 13th.

From members of the Board, to the GC PTA, teachers, paraprofessionals, clerical, and members of the administration, each honored the educational leader who guided the school district, one of the top in the state and the nation, through a mind-boggling array of changes that took place since he became Superintendent of Schools in 2005: the technological revolution, the financial turmoil of the Great Recession, the politicization of public education, and the application of research-based best practices for teaching and learning in a fast-paced, information laden, global economy.

At this year's Retiree Ceremony, it was no surprise that some of the most heartfelt well wishes for a happy retirement came from the students and staff at the June 13th event, at which more than 30 retiring staff members were also honored by the Board.

Dr. Feirsen was presented with several meaningful tokens of appreciation by the students and building principals, from hand-painted portraits created by the district's art teachers and signed by students and staff, to handmade books with illustrations and advice from primary school students on how to best spend his time in retirement.

It is true that Dr. Feirsen is retiring from the school district on July 31st, however, he will probably not be, in the words of our youngest writers, "fishing," "cooking," or "learning to surfboard." He is stepping into a new role as the Director of NYIT's Leadership Program, including becoming a faculty member overseeing teachers who aspire to be school administrators and school leaders pursuing their end degrees.

As he embarks on this new path, we extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Robert Feirsen for his 12 years of dedicated service to the students, parents, teachers, and staff of Garden City Public Schools, and best wishes for a happy future with many years of successful educational leadership still to come!



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1586HERobBanner.jpg:

Hemlock Principal Audrey Bellovin (left) and Hemlock students presented a beautiful banner to Dr. Feirsen at the Board of Education's June 13th Retiree and Service Recognition Ceremony.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1594HORobBanner.jpg:

Homestead students and teacher Lori Palladino (right) presented Dr. Feirsen with a giant "Thank You" banner.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1597LOChildren.jpg:

In addition to their banner, Locust students and Principal Dr. Jean Ricotta presented Dr. Feirsen with a book of illustrations and advice on how to spend his retirement.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1604SASongGroup.jpg:

Stratford students sang a beautiful song in tribute to Dr. Feirsen at the June 13th Retiree Ceremony.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1629STEWeWillMissYou.jpg:
Stewart students, all wearing Mets tees, performed a “We Will Miss You” cheer and presented Dr. Feirsen with a Mets tee shirt.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1639MSPPortrait.jpg:
Garden City Middle School Principal Dr. Peter Osroff presented Dr. Feirsen with a hand-painted portrait signed by students and staff.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1646HSPortrait.jpg:

In the spirit of “Great minds thinking alike,” Garden City High School Principal Nanine McLaughlin presented Dr. Feirsen with another hand painted portrait by high school art teachers, this one signed by the high school students and staff.



Caption for 6-13-17IMG_1671RobAngelaTiffany.jpg:

As a retiree, Dr. Feirsen also accepted the district’s traditional parting token of a Tiffany crystal apple from Board President Angela Heineman.