

April 4, 2013

Friends of the Oakland Unified School District,

On April 10, the Board of Education will consider the resignation of Superintendent Tony Smith, which was tendered on April 4, 2013. The superintendent's resignation was unexpected and came as a surprise to the Board. This unfortunate decision is due to the hospitalization and poor health of his father-in-law in Chicago. Superintendent Smith's last day will be June 30, 2013, at which time he and his family will relocate.

While there is much work to do in Oakland Public Schools to continue to carry out the district's vision of high quality full-service community schools, we as a Board believe that this is an opportunity to deepen the resolve and commitment to further this work across Oakland.

After four years, the Superintendent will be leaving a legacy that Oakland can be proud of: stable district leadership, a strong and unified Board, committed families and new partnerships with community leaders, strong philanthropic support, and nationally recognized initiatives in service of student learning. We have no doubt that Oakland is ready for the work ahead and will continue to become the strong public school system that Oakland students and families deserve.

As the Board of Directors, we commit to supporting the Superintendent in his transition and to standing with the community of staff, students, and families as we move forward in this new chapter for the Oakland Unified School District.