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CELINA CITY SCHOOLS

May 16, 2017

To Dr. Schmiesing, Mrs. Dammeyer, and the Celina Board of Education,

It is with a great deal of consideration that I submit to you my resignation as a speech therapist at Celina City Schools effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 contract year. My thirteen years here have been filled with joy, professional growth, amazing colleagues, and the best students a therapist could ask for.

As some of you know, in addition to my 60% position with Celina City Schools, I have been working as an author of books for children. When my first manuscript was purchased by Random House Children's Books in 2007, many people asked when I would leave my "day job." To me, being a speech therapist was so much more than just a day job. Leaving at that time never crossed my mind.

Now, ten years later, my tenth book is under contract. I've been blessed to have my books recognized by the International Reading Association, School Library Journal, Bank Street College, and the Junior Library Guild. I'm regularly invited to present as a visiting author in schools across the country.

The time has come to choose between two jobs I adore, and the decision was indeed long in the making. I'm pleased that, as an author, I will still be with young learners, teaching and talking about reading, writing, and the power of story in every life. In so many ways, I take with me my experiences at Celina City Schools.

Thank you for thirteen years of support.

With kindest regards,


Michelle Houts, M.Ed. M.A. CCC-SLP