
Re: Jamar Brown Resignation

sowersta@u4sd.org Tammy Sowers

Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 11:36:47 AM Central Standard Time

To: [REDACTED] Jamar Brown

Thank you Jamar!
I wish you the best.....

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 11:26 AM Jamar Brown [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Tammy-

I was told I needed to send you my resignation letter to make it official. I have attached it to this email.

Let me know if there is anything else I need to do to close this out.

Thank you, and it was a pleasure working with you again. Maybe our paths will cross again in your after retirement career 😊

Have a great day

Jamar Brown

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Life has no pause button. Dreams have no expiration date. Time has no holiday. Don't waste a single moment of your life on things that are not worth it.

--

Tammy Sowers (she/her)
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Unit #4 Schools
502 W. Windsor
Champaign, IL 61820
217-351-3838
sowersta@u4sd.org



Garret Hill <hillga@u4sd.org>

Fwd: Jamar Brown Resignation

1 message

Tammy Sowers <sowersta@u4sd.org>

Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 11:40 AM

To: Garret Hill <hillga@u4sd.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tammy Sowers** <sowersta@u4sd.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 11:37 AM

Subject: Fwd: Jamar Brown Resignation

To: Gianina Baker <bakerga@u4sd.org>, Shelia Boozer <boozersh@u4sd.org>

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jamar Brown** [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 11:26 AM

Subject: Jamar Brown Resignation

To: Tammy Sowers <sowersta@u4sd.org>

Hello Tammy-

I was told I needed to send you my resignation letter to make it official. I have attached it to this email.

Let me know if there is anything else I need to do to close this out.

Thank you, and it was a pleasure working with you again. Maybe our paths will cross again in your after retirement career 🙏

Have a great day

Jamar Brown

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JBrown resignation.docx

16K



Garret Hill <hillga@u4sd.org>

Fwd: Resignation

1 message

Tammy Sowers <sowersta@u4sd.org>
To: Garret Hill <hillga@u4sd.org>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 10:33 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shelia Boozer** <boozersh@u4sd.org>
Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 6:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Resignation
To: Tammy Sowers <sowersta@u4sd.org>
Cc: Gianina Baker <bakerga@u4sd.org>

FYI...

I will contact Gary Lewis and let him know.

Dr. Shelia E. Boozer
Superintendent Champaign Unit 4

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Thies <thiesma@u4sd.org>
Date: March 19, 2024 at 6:08:20 PM CDT
To: Shelia Boozer <boozersh@u4sd.org>, Betsy Holder <holderbe@u4sd.org>, Bruce Brown <brownbru@u4sd.org>, Heather Vazquez <vazquehe@u4sd.org>, Gianina Baker <bakerga@u4sd.org>, Amy Armstrong <armstram@u4sd.org>
Subject: Resignation

Mark Thies
Champaign Unit 4 School Board Member
thiesma@u4sd.org

March 19, 2024

Dear School Board Members & Superintendent,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign my position on the Champaign Unit 4 School Board, effective immediately. My other commitments are making it difficult for me to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the board.

Thank you to the community for electing me to serve on this board. My platform was on improving student performance and creating a more positive environment for teachers. In my time on the board, it is clear that my vision is not aligned with the future direction and initiatives of Unit 4.

For the board to be effective and maintain a healthy culture: a laser focus needs to be on student achievement, transparent information should be free flowing, respect and trust with the administration, and foremost strong leadership at the top of the district. Meetings need to be organized, maintain professionalism, and be efficient so that meaningful feedback and open, honest dialogue support sound decisions and long-term planning. If everyone is valued it's

easier to make decisions that are effective and will make a difference in the lives of our students and teachers.

I wish Unit 4 much success in the future.

Sincerely,

Mark Thies

--

Tammy Sowers (she/her)
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Unit #4 Schools
502 W. Windsor
Champaign, IL 61820
217-351-3838
sowersta@u4sd.org

As I have gotten older, I have realized that life is short and the things that I have started to appreciate are some of the same things I took for granted when I was younger. One of those things has been time. Another is purpose. When I was younger, I did not value my time because I thought because I was young I had so much of it left. And as far as purpose. I felt like there was plenty of time to figure that out as well. Following the famous advice of grandmothers everywhere, I kept on living and realized, especially in this past month you never know how much time you actually have, and because of that, you should cherish each moment that you have doing what you love to do, with those you love, and walking in the purpose you were created to walk in. I have come to realize that my purpose. Was to be a voice for the voiceless. To be an advocate for those who either lack the ability or the know-how to advocate for themselves.

The way that I chose to live out this purpose was by joining the Champaign Unit Four school board. First in 2011 and again in 2023. My first experience on the board was an extremely fulfilling one. There were many highs and lows knowing the decisions that I was making and the policies we were creating Were helping even the playing field for every young person who walked the halls of our many schools. After my first term, I dubbed my school board experience as the best thing that I never wanted to do. Unfortunately. This second time around, I cannot say I am having the same experience. This time around has been filled with mistrust, missteps, and misinformation. During this time the district and school board have taken much criticism over many topics from various stakeholders. some of it was warranted, some of it was not, and there's even some of it that was self-inflicted. Being the large public entity that we are, there are two things for certain. We are not going to always make the right call and even when we do, we will not always be able to please all of our constituents all the time. In both of those moments, we should always maintain a level of humility, compassion, and a willingness to adjust. It has become apparent that our current environment lacks these values.

Before rejoining the board, I had many conversations with individuals connected directly or indirectly to the school district. I heard about many great things that were happening in Unit 4. I also heard that there were challenges that were happening within the district and to the district. Armed with this information I jumped on board and worked my purpose once again in the district. Once inside I did notice the attacks that were happening to the district. However, what was more alarming to me were the self-inflicted wounds and attacks we were doing to ourselves.

I've tried to contribute to our district's progress through votes, conversations, and suggestions. However, given the current climate and culture, I no longer see a clear path forward. The District's decision not to maintain a level of humility, compassion, or adjustability has forced us to focus on adult-oriented issues instead of student-centered ones that can help raise our reading and math scores and comprehension. The ones that ensure that every child in our district is seen, heard, and respected, and the ones where we assess ourselves to make sure we have the right people in the right positions where they can thrive and, in turn, pass that along to our students.

So because of this, I no longer see the value of continuing in this capacity.

So please accept this as my resignation from the Champaign Unit Four Board of Education. Effective today at the conclusion of open session.

I understand this decision may disappoint some, and for that, I offer my sincere apologies. Having committed to a four-year term and leaving with less than a year in, I hope my prior contributions and dedication to our community will earn me the grace to understand the gravity of this decision, which was not made lightly but after months of contemplation.

Although I will no longer be sitting in this seat. I still stand true to my purpose and my commitment to my community and I pray that my future endeavors and works in this community will help me regain your support, trust, and faith. Thank you.