



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Professional Learning Community,

In difficult times, we are often called to serve and to give ourselves to the challenges that are presented us. In many of these circumstances, the challenges do not come with instruction books or answers to the test. Often the best and only tools we have available to draw from is our courage, our will, and our resilience to overcome the obstacles placed before us.

During these past couple years, we have been called upon to serve our families and communities in ways that we couldn't have imagined, especially here within our learning community. We have been called upon to serve in a battle that will likely have implications for generations to come. We not only fight for our physical health, but also for the health of education in our learning community that will produce the next generation of leaders. The fight is just as much about our health tomorrow and the weeks, months, and years ahead as it is about our health and wellbeing today.

With the unique call to service we have experienced during these unprecedented circumstances, as we approach Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, it brings to mind one of Dr. King's last sermons, "The Drum Major Instinct," which he preached from the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church on February 4, 1968. During this sermon, he spoke of the great importance of serving others and that "he who is greatest among you shall be your servant."

For those who may have questioned their ability to serve, he further spoke of what it takes to serve others:

"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

The education of our students, especially over these past couple years, has been made possible through the service and collaboration among our teachers, families, support staff, administrators, Board members, and community leaders. During the pandemic, it has required unique and extraordinary contributions from each and all of you to ensure that our students continue to learn, to grow, and to succeed.

With gratitude beyond my words, I thank each and all of you for giving a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love in serving our learning community and our students. Your service to support our students' education not only helps them to achieve excellence today, but it goes a long way to ensuring the prosperity of our communities and our nation that is led by this generation of students and the ones that follow.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools