

TO THE WARWICK COMMUNITY:

THANK YOU AND GOOD-BYE

A little over 3½ years ago I arrived in the Warwick Valley Central School District to continue my career in education. While recent personal health issues have limited the length of time I had planned to spend in Warwick, I didn't want to leave without saying thank you to all I have had the pleasure to get to know and work with during my tenure as Superintendent. While I was truly impressed by many things during my first weeks in Warwick, I never realized how much I would truly come to enjoy the school system and community. From the first students I met to the last I will congratulate at graduation, the experiences I have had have been very enjoyable and rewarding. If there was one thing that struck me right from the start that there was a lack of trust between the various components in the community and the district itself. I will never forget a visit from one community member (who I now consider one of my friends as I leave) who told me I was not to be trusted simply because of my title. I also remember the anti-budget sentiment and how no one truly seemed to work together for common goals. Finally, I remember searching everywhere for the Jacuzzi that supposedly existed in my office. While I never was able to find the Jacuzzi, I was very lucky to have a group of individuals step forward to serve on committees. These individuals (and others) helped to set a foundation for future budgets and activities that would set a tone for the last three years. On the evening of my first budget vote results in Warwick, a reporter asked how it felt to lose a budget (it was my first loss during my career) and sarcastically welcomed me to Orange County and Warwick specifically. My response to him raised some eyebrows when I said that even the New York Yankees didn't win a pennant every year but still have more championships than any other team in the history of sports and how I didn't expect to have any future voter rejections of budgets or referendums.

Since that initial budget defeat, because of the support of so many, the last three Warwick budgets have passed as have seven separate referendums. I sense this is reflective of a positive change in the attitudes around Warwick that I can only hope will continue long into the future.

As a community, the most valuable resource you have is your children. I am a much better person because you have allowed me to share a part of their lives with them. The children of this community have taken and passed many tests, both in the classrooms and on the field of play, but it has been in the most important test of caring that they have earned honors. For this achievement you should all be very proud. It was this caring that allowed all the duties associated with my role to be much easier and enjoyable.

Now it is time for me to say not only thank you but also good-bye. As difficult as it is, I am not dismayed at saying good-bye because as Richard Bach once wrote, "A farewell is necessary before we can meet again, and meeting again after moments or lifetimes is certain for those who are friends." So, my friends in Warwick, I say good-bye and thank you. I look forward to following the District's continued success and to when in the future we meet again. Thank you and good-bye.

Dr. Frank Greenhall
Superintendent of Schools