

2019-026

**Daniel Grayton**

RECEIVED

**From:** Gretchen Marinopoulos  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019 6:04 AM  
**To:** Mayor Gray; Tim Kisieleski; Peter Hoyt; Debra LaValley; Robert Chamberlain; Bob@jblclaw.com; Robert Lavoie  
**Subject:** Resignation

19 APR -9 AM 9:36  
 AMESBURY CITY CLERK

Dear School Committee Colleagues,

I have written this letter probably a hundred times in the last year, but in the early hours of this morning, it became clear that it was time to hit send.

For quite some time, I have questioned the direction that APS is headed. Maybe rather foolishly, I assumed I could make a difference. It appears as though that is not the case.

The reading of our mission statement at each and every meeting has slowly lost it's luster. Last night, the mission statement became nothing but empty words for me. I can no longer, with a strong conscience, be a part of something that I am beginning to not believe in. From the little things, like year after year approving an "educational" 8th grade trip to Disney when our high school students have zero opportunity to travel the world to become better global citizens, to the bigger things, like the new AES building project which I believe is set up for epic failure, to the most important thing of all, passing a budget that supports our students, teachers, and community with so little fight for what is obvious to me not in the best interests of moving us forward and doing right by kids, I feel as though I have no choice but to resign.

Like the APS has only one pot of gold, I have only one pot of passion and energy. After my 3 years, 3 months and 9 days on this committee, I am deciding to put my energies towards things that I have neglected during my tenure. Among these are my own career, my own teacher's union, and most importantly, my family.

I truly wish you the very best as you move past last night's budget vote. It has been a pleasure serving alongside of you and I have learned so much from you as a collective whole.

Mayor, please accept this letter as my formal resignation. Should you require something more formal, I will be happy to provide you with whatever you need. Although, it should be duly noted that my last formal letter of resignation was as a server at the Ale House and I wrote it on a cocktail napkin (and it was in the form of an acrostic poem).

My best to all of you. I know deep down inside we all believe that we are doing our very best...perhaps it is time for someone else to give this a go. Sooner, rather than later, I feel is in the best interests in having someone fill my seat who is not feeling so "empty".

Best,  
Gretchen

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