

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

CITY HALL - 45 LYON TERRACE  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604

**PAUL G. VALLAS**  
Superintendent of Schools

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I have been presented with an unexpected and extraordinary opportunity. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, has invited me to join him as his running mate as he seeks reelection in 2014. I am extremely honored and have accepted, recognizing that this opportunity requires that I will need to resign my position as the Bridgeport Public Schools Superintendent.

Departing the Bridgeport Public Schools is not an easy decision, but I am completely aware that the new board, elected just this week by Bridgeport voters to guide the system in coming years, has a desire to work with a superintendent of its own choosing. Having the ability to make that choice will unify the board and give it greater investment in the new Superintendent's success.

Thus, I will not leave the district suddenly, or in a lurch, but will work with the new Board as it searches for a new superintendent, set a timetable and ensure that it is fully equipped to build on the progress the district has made during the past two years. Together we will focus on what is best for the district going forward.

I arrived in Bridgeport with the understanding that I would be here for six months. I am immensely gratified to have been able to stay longer and help the district achieve financial stability for the first time in memory by balancing two budgets, which allowed us to avoid projected school closures and cuts of hundreds of employees.

Rather than close schools, we have opened five new ones. We have delivered 60,000 new schoolbooks to our students, Chromebooks to all our high school students, a citywide Common Core curriculum. We have made schools safer, expanded alternative programs, enabled more students to earn college credit, and won millions in grants.

I am grateful to the State Department of Education for their leadership in driving Connecticut forward, Mayor Finch for his tremendous support and to the School Board, for their passion and counsel. I also want to thank my staff; the city's wonderful educators; our communities, parents, and our students most of all. They are unending sources of hope, and we owe them everything we can give.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Vallas  
Superintendent of Schools