**14459, David Leach – Graduation**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I’d like to welcome all our students, their families and friends and our teachers and staff to this year’s graduation. Although this is the end of my first year at your Superintendent, I know that most of you have spent your entire school career right here in this school district. I am very proud to be your superintendent. We have a beautiful campus for all our school buildings and the activities for our students.

I am very proud of our graduates today. By looking at their accomplishments we can see that we are fulfilling our mission statement, which is to provide all our students with the necessary skills to thrive in the 21st Century as learners, workers and citizens. During your time here as students you have learned the lessons from your classes well. Your test scores prove that. But, in order to earn those scores you have had to learn something far more important for the long term and that is perseverance. All the lessons you learned are important but you will find as you leave school and go forward in life that the life lessons you learned, perseverance being the most important.

As you go out into the world you will find that you are faced with many new challenges. You will also find the world will not be as accommodating to you as life has been at school. You will need to persevere in order to reach your goals. You will have to remember the old adage to “try, try again,” as you pursue your dreams and goals. You are already well prepared to meet your future. You have studied and learned all we could teach you. But to make them come true life will require to work hard, it will require you to have grit and determination. Life will require you to pour your all into those dreams and goals to make them come true.

Each and every one of you have dreams and goals that you want to achieve. They are different for each of you but they are all valid and worthwhile. Don’t ever let anyone discourage you from going after those dreams and goals. Don’t let the opinions of others affect the plans and dreams you want to pursue. Don’t let the low expectations of others short circuit your dreams and cause you to give up trying. If you already know your passions and dreams, then go after them with gusto. If you haven’t made up your mind then step out in faith and try new things until you find your passion.

Whenever you find your passion, go after your dreams with all your heart. Follow your passion and your dreams. Don’t ever surrender. Life will require you to work hard, to outwork others. As much as possible I encourage you to work smarter not just harder or longer. But, don’t be afraid of working hard or long in order to reach your dreams. Just use wisdom in how you work and how you use your resources. For if you do these things, work hard, and follow your dreams and passions, then you will learn to love who you are, not feel badly about yourself because of others’ low opinions.

We send you off today to seek your dreams and passions and we look forward to hearing back from you as you meet those goals and dreams.

Congratulations Class of 2015