**[EZ Speech Writers No. 15330]**

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Remarks by Mr. Richard McDonald on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Schools of the Dunmore School District.

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Good [morning/afternoon/evening] everyone . . .

you know . . . as i was thinking what i’d say about retiring as superintendent of the dunmore schools at this graduation ceremony, it occurred to me that every retirement speech should, in reality, be a *thank-you* speech. And i decided that mine would be no exception.

But i also decided that i’d break the usual “thank-you-speech” mold in one very important respect. for, i’m sure you’ve all probably heard lots and lots of thank-you speeches at events like the oscars and emmys and other awards ceremonies, where the honorees usually finish by saying: *“and last but not least, i’d like to thank my wife and my wonderful family for all the support they’ve given me throughout my career.”*

well . . . i’m not going to thank my family last *or* least. i’m going to thank them *first*, because throughout my career, including the last 12 terrific years i’ve spent with the dunmore school district, i owe my family *everything*. their love and support and constant encouragement have sustained me every day, and without them — without my wonderful wife of 45 years, nancy, and our three wonderful children, jenny, rickie, and katie — i would have been far less a man, and far less a professional, and far less an effective community member than i ever could’ve been without them.

[gesturing/motioning to your family] so to all of you, my dear, dear, family: i thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you’ve given me. you have been the loves of my life and the wind beneath my sails.

[pause for possible applause from the audience]

and now, to continue with my thank-you list, i’d like to thank all the wonderful teachers and administrators and school board members with whom i’ve had the priviledge of working these last 12 years. you’ve all been great friends and wonderfully supportive colleagues; and there’s no doubt that whatever good things i might have accomplished here at dunmore were, and are, as much a tribute to *your* hard work and *your* commitment to excellence as to anything else. your faith in me as a leader of the team has been hugely gratifying to me, and it’s been one of the greatest rewards in my life to have served as your captain for a while.

i’d also like to thank the hundreds and hundreds of students, past and present, who’ve blessed my life in more ways than they could ever know. and not just the students, but their parents, too — the mothers and fathers who’ve been so kind and so appreciative of the programs and innovations we’ve brougoht to the dunmore district during my tenure here. without your advice and participation and support, the dunmore schools would have been little more than ordinary. but i think you’d agree that we’re a heck of a lot better than ordinary. our graduation rates speak for themselves, and our college acceptance rates i think are something we can all be truly to proud of.

and finally, to all of you in the class of 2016 graduaitng here today, i hope you’ll come to appreciate the education you got here, and the tremendously promising future for which, i trust, you feel that education has prepared you. i know my own kids, all products of dunmore schools, felt that way, and all three of them — jenny, rickie, and katie — have since graduated from penn state university and are all now pursuing very successful professional careers. my greatest hope for you is that you will follow in their footsteps and carry on the pursuit of excellence that we’ve tried to instill in all of you.

and so it is with deep humility and enormous gratitude that I thank you all.

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I will be retiring as Superintendent of schools after serving the Dunmore school district and the community of Dunmore for twelve years. I just want a brief speech 1to 5 minutes if possible to thank the community, staff and all the students that I have had the opportunity to serve the past 12 years. It has been an honor and a priviledge to serve this wonder school and community. I would especially like to thank my family, including my wonderful wife of 45 years Nancy and my children Jenny, Ricky and Katie all Dunmore High school graduates, all Penn state graduates and all are enjoying professional careers . Maybe something to effect of the type of education they received through the Dunmore school system. I would also like to thank the board members who have supported me through the years. I will be giving this as the first speaker at our high school graduation, {June 8} so maybe a congratulations to all of our graduates and wish them luck in their futures.