

Robert D. Sommers, PhD
Middletown, OH 45042

June 17, 2011

Debe Terhar, President
Ohio State Board of Education
25 South Front St
Columbus, OH 43215

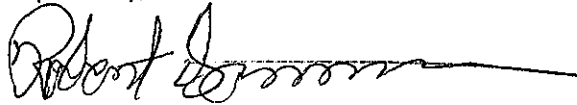
Dear Ms. Terhar,

Please accept this as my official withdrawal from consideration as State Superintendent. My withdrawal is necessary because I have recently been advised by counsel that, if selected, Ohio's ethics laws would require me to refrain from communications with Office of the Governor for a full 12 months. If I were to be selected, having to work under these restrictions would severely inhibit the ability of the Ohio Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Governor to collaborate on policies to improve education for Ohio's children.

The Governor is committed to quality education reform. The Office of 21st Century Education and the State Board have a tremendous opportunity to shape thoughtful, productive reform which will lead to improved student success. The next State Superintendent will be critical to this process and needs full access to the Governor's office to do their job well. While Ohio's ethics laws make this impossible for me, they do not for the other candidates you are considering. You have quality candidates still available for your selection and the Governor's office looks forward to working with the individual you choose.

I continue to be committed to helping advance public education in Ohio. I look forward to working with the State Board and the new State Superintendent to advance our mutual cause: better schools for Ohio's children. Best wishes with your selection process. Your service to Ohio is appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Sommers", written over a horizontal line.

Robert D. Sommers