



January 2, 2020

Dear Fort Smallwood Elementary Families:

I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving Fort Smallwood Elementary School as your principal at the end of next week. Superintendent George Arlotto has appointed me as the new principal at Walter S. Mills-Parole Elementary School, effective Monday, January 13, 2020.

I cannot adequately express to you how much serving as your principal over the last three-plus years has meant to me. This is a phenomenal school, with incredible students and staff who are supported by a community dedicated to helping its children excel.

I have been honored to be a part of an incredible team here, and I have learned so many lessons that I will take with me when I depart. While I am excited about this new opportunity, please know that I will miss the students, parents, and staff here at Fort Smallwood very much.

Patricia Nalley, who worked for Anne Arundel County Public Schools for four decades before retiring in 2007, will serve as acting principal at our school for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Nalley taught in our school system for 31 years, was an assistant principal at Van Bokkelen and Broadneck elementary schools, and served as principal at Davidsonville Elementary School for nine years. After retiring, she spent 11 years as a member of our county's Board of Education.

I have no doubt Mrs. Nalley will do an outstanding job of leading our awesome staff and helping our students continue to soar. I will meet with her prior to my departure to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

I know that our students will continue to achieve great things here at Fort Smallwood, and I look forward to reading and hearing about them. I thank you for all the support you have given me, and I wish you nothing but the best in the days and years ahead.

Sincerely,

David Sembly  
Principal

DS/bm