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WOODMERE EDUCATION CENTER  
One Johnson Place  
Woodmere, NY 11598-1312  
Telephone: 516-792-4800  
Fax: 516-374-8101  
Email: hwboe@hewlett-woodmere.net

**RALPH MARINO, JR., Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent**

April 20, 2017

Mrs. Betsy DeVos  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mrs. DeVos,

On behalf of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the United States Secretary of Education. We cannot imagine a more important responsibility than overseeing the education of our nation's children.

Our mission and vision here at Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools mirrors that of the U.S. Department of Education, "to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

With a 99% graduation rate, and more than 97% of our graduates continuing their educational journeys at institutes of higher learning, we are confident that we are preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead beyond our walls. Consistently ranked among the nation's top school districts, we take pride in assisting each member of our diverse community to reach their maximum potential, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. In addition, we provide services to more than 1,200 non-public school students who reside in our community.

While we applaud and encourage intervention at struggling schools across the country, districts that have consistently demonstrated high performance should not be subject to the same regulations. This "one size fits all" philosophy simply does not work in the education of children. Conversely, districts with a proven record of innovation and success should be rewarded and recognized, rather than penalized.

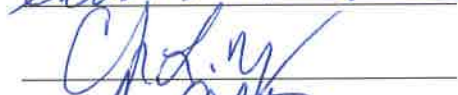
We would like to cordially invite you to visit us here in Hewlett-Woodmere, tour our five schools, and get to know some of our 3,100 students and 700 dedicated staff members. We would welcome this opportunity to share the programs, services, and opportunities that abound at Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you in the hopes of arranging a visit to Long Island.

Sincerely,



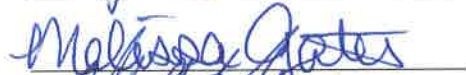
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