

Principal Swanson
Remarks on Dr. Galo at HHS Student Council Assembly
April 3, 2019

Good morning, HHS, and I hope your Wednesday is off to a great start. Whether you've thought about this or not, today could be regarded as a pretty significant milestone in the school year. As I'm sure you know, today marks the first day of fourth term. That means 45 more days of school for most of you and 32 for the seniors, including your field day. That's not many! Today also marks our final Student Council assembly of the year. And, more than that, it marks the final HHS Student Council assembly in the long and accomplished career of our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dorothy Galo.

You have learned a bit Dr. Galo already this morning, and you'll learn more before the end of this assembly. Some of the numbers are jaw dropping. 56 years of service to the Hingham Public Schools, 18 of them as superintendent. And, yes, you heard that right: 56 years of service to the Hingham Public Schools. That's not including the time she spent here as a student, since Dr. Galo is herself a proud graduate of Hingham High School. She graduated from HHS in 1957, before going on to attend Radcliffe College, which is now formally integrated into Harvard University. Dr. Galo returned to Hingham as a teacher in 1963 and, since then, has never left. Over the course of these past 56 years, she has served our school district in many capacities, first as a teacher, and later as an assistant principal, a department director, assistant superintendent, and, finally, as superintendent. She has held the top leadership position in our school district for the entire lifetime of every student in this building. That kind of longevity is unparalleled. It's unheard of. More important than the *length* of her service, though, has been the *quality* of her leadership. In every one of those roles, she has served our schools (your schools) with unrivaled dedication, integrity and excellence. And I don't say those things lightly. I'm telling you the truth: In my own career, which now encompasses more than a

quarter-century, I have NEVER encountered a person who works harder or with a more single-minded dedication to excellence than Dr. Galo. She is an incredible person and a truly remarkable leader.

What makes all of this even more special is the fact that Dr. Galo's incredible efforts over all those years have been for the benefit of others. Not for herself...not for fame or fortune...but for the benefit of others...for the benefit of everybody who has had the good fortune to attend Hingham schools (or work at Hingham schools) at any point over the last half century. Especially those in Hingham schools today. That's all of *us*. Needless to say, the work of education requires many capable hands. A school is a common enterprise that relies on the efforts of countless people: teachers, students, administrators, secretaries, custodians, kitchen staff, bus drivers, and others. We all play essential roles. But the excellent education you're receiving now, and the great experiences you've had since your first day of kindergarten, owe more to Dr. Galo than to any other single individual. Even if you've never met her in person, your life has been better because of her. I believe that's a fact. Dr. Galo's career is a shining example of how one person (if she works hard enough and CARES enough) can make a truly enormous impact in the lives of others. So let's count that lesson as one final gift among the countless others she has already given to us. And please join me in a heartfelt (and LOUD) expression of our gratitude. Dr. Galo: We love you, and we'll never forget you! From the bottom of our hearts: Thank you!