

# Schreiber Times

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Paul D. Schreiber High School

Dec. 19, 1972

## RUSSELL RESIGNS

Mr. Russell, Schreiber's principal for the last 2½ years, formally announced his resignation in a letter to the Board of Education last Thursday, Dec. 14. Mr. Russell then announced his resignation to the staff of Schreiber at a short faculty meeting after school on Friday, Dec. 15.

There has been a great deal of concern and discussion by both teachers and students on Mr. Russell's resignation, and some actions have been planned for Tuesday night's Board meeting at Sousa.

Schreiber's faculty is writing a letter to the Board expressing their desire to have Mr. Russell's resignation turned down, and the Student Government is sponsoring a petition today in the lobby, in support of Mr. Russell and his policies. Andy McKenzie and Julie Scheinman are also circulating a petition supporting Mr. Russell's policies and their continuation next year. These three groups feel that with Mr. Russell's departure the program presently at Schreiber will be altered and that this will jeopardize the educational system in Port Washington.

A copy of Mr. Russell's letter follows:

I have for some time been engaged in a soul-searching re-consideration of my future here in Port Washington. For several reasons which are deeply personal, I have reached the decision not to continue beyond June 30 of the current 1972-1973 school year. This decision has been reached with great reluctance and with profound regret. My experience at Schreiber High School has been uniquely rewarding and fulfilling, both personally and professionally. It is an experience that I shall never forget, as I shall never forget the

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It is imperative that you and your parents attend the School Board meeting at Sousa, tonight at 8:15, to show your support for Mr. Russell, modular scheduling, the elective program, and the progressive trend in education we presently have in Port Washington.

Major accomplishments under Mr. Russell are:

1. the institution of modular scheduling
2. the adoption of a new confidential drug code, with guidance and medical assistance
3. independent study credit for informal studies
4. members of community invited to visit Schreiber
5. the establishment of student smoking areas



MR. RUSSELL:  
"I wonder what  
would happen if I  
ever let go.....?"

superb professional colleagues with whom I have worked, nor the young people of this community, so warm, so honest, so exciting in their potential, who have constituted the very special joy of my Schreiber sojourn. At this point it is probable, but not definite, that I shall retire from active service in New York State's public education. I plan, however, no matter what the final decision as to New York retirement, to continue my professional service in some capacity, wherever it might contribute, in ways that I could find significant, to moving American public education forward.

I am sensitive to the assistance and support that you, personally, have provided, and express my sincere appreciation at this time.

The timing of any public announcement I leave entirely in your hands. You may have my assurance that I shall work to the utmost of my ability to leave the Schreiber program in the strongest possible condition, and to smooth the transition to a new building administration.

Sincerely,  
William J. Russell

## EDITORIAL

Mr. Russell's resignation can mean the end of modular scheduling. It can mean a return to the eight period day and the removal of the liberal educational reforms that have been established in the last two and a half years.

It is evident that a major reason for his resignation is the lack of support from differing factions of this school community. Teachers have already awakened to the battle and are drafting a letter to the School Board urging them to persuade Mr. Russell to reconsider his decision. The students have yet to be heard from. But the greatest lack of support has come from the School Board and the community at large. The community has demonstrated their distaste for the modular program by electing conservative representatives to the School Board by a definite majority. The School Board then showed a tremendous lack of professional courtesy by forming the district disciplinary code without consulting the principal whose school would be most affected. The town newspapers also attempted to undermine Mr. Russell's efforts by associating modular scheduling with drug arrests and students loitering downtown during school hours. We find this lack of support totally unjustified.

During his time as principal, Mr. Russell has given this school and its students a great deal in a short time. Besides modular scheduling, Mr. Russell has upgraded discipline, initiated a confidential drug policy, allowed student smoking areas, increased the number of students taking regents and Regents Scholarship tests, made early graduation easier and given more college-bound students a better chance of being accepted to the college of their choice.

Now is the time to show our support of the man who has, time and time again, demonstrated that he has only the welfare of the students in mind. What can we do? Attend the Board meeting, or better yet, have your parents attend and express their opinions. We urge you, with all possible sincerity, to support a man who has done much for you.