

MAY - 1 1996

To: Harry Harutunian

From: JoAnn McMahon *JMc*

Re: Resignation

Date: April 30, 1996

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that you have left me no alternative but to resign my position as Supervisor of Health Services of the Reading School System effective April 30, 1996.

I have been ill and emotionally distressed since our conversation on Friday April 26th. During that conversation I was told by you that I was insubordinate because I provided Department of Public Health information to a parent of a medically fragile student. I was also told by you that in the future I should not provide Department of Health information to parents because I was inciting them and they in turn were calling you.

If I obey your instructions I am violating the responsibilities of my position to the medically disadvantaged students, their parents and also my employer, The Town of Reading. On the other hand, however, if I disobey your instructions I will be found by you to be insubordinate, which I am told will be grounds for termination.

This is another example of how you and Dennis Richards have threatened me in my position throughout this school year. You have created working conditions for me that are no longer tolerable. After almost twenty years of service and continuous superior performance I now find myself having to resign because I have not supported your position regarding the school nurses. Your retaliation has been deliberate and ongoing.

I believe that I have been wrongfully harmed by your intentional infliction of emotional distress and by your creating working conditions that have now forced me to resign. I do not intend to let this matter end with this letter. The next letter you receive will not be from me. Furthermore, if I hear that you, Dennis Richards or anyone else in the administration says one word that negatively affects my reputation in my position, I will immediately pursue a separate action against you and The Town of Reading for slander.

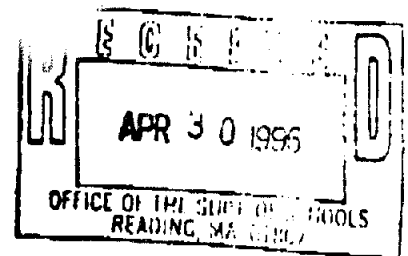
Copy: Principal Alice Barrows School  
Principal Joshua Eaton School  
Board of Nursing Registration  
School Health Advisor Department of Public Health  
Teamsters Local 25 Representative

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Teamsters Local 25 Representative



## READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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Dennis A. Richards  
Associate Superintendent

8 May 1996

Mrs. Kendra Cooper  
20 Covey Hill Road  
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Dear Kendra,

In response to your letter dated May 2, 1996, requesting a copy of the resignation letter of JoAnn McMahon, Supervisor of the Reading School Nurses, I am forwarding the enclosed.

This is the only part of Mrs. McMahon's letter of resignation that is part of the public record.

Yours truly,

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

HKH/dfw  
Enclosure



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(photo)

## McMahon resigns from job as top nurse

By PAUL FEELY

READING - JoAnn McMahon, the Supervisor of Health Services for the Reading school system, has resigned from that position.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harry Harutunian stated this morning that he does not know if the resignation is permanent or temporary.

"All I can say is that we've received a letter of resignation," said Harutunian this morning. "We've been trying to get in touch with her."

McMahon did not return a call placed to her earlier this week.

Concerned citizens who have asked to see the letter of resignation, to see the reasons behind it, were unsuccessful in their attempts. At least one is expected to file a complaint with the Office of Public Records, which will then determine whether or not the letter is released.

A substitute nurse has been filling in for McMahon this week at the Barrows elementary school.

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