



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Trumbull Community,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. I wanted to take a moment and update you on a few important items.

Staff Vaccinations

The employees of the Trumbull Public Schools are absolutely essential to the health and well-being of our students and to the well-being of our society. The Trumbull Department of Health has been exceptional in their work to coordinate the vaccination process and we are all excited to get Phase 1b fully underway. When we get the green-light, we will do everything in our power to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to be vaccinated. Hopefully, we will learn additional information soon!

District Calendar Change

At the Board of Education meeting last evening, the Board unanimously approved a change to the 2020-2021 District Calendar. The newly adopted [calendar](#) provides much needed time to our teaching staff. Specifically, starting on Wednesday, January 20 and running through Wednesday, March 10, our students PK-12 will follow a half-day schedule. This will provide additional time for our teachers to continue to prepare for both in-person and remote student learning. Preparing high-quality lessons for both groups of students is no easy task and our teachers have been enduring very long days throughout the year to make this all work. This additional time will be welcomed by our teaching staff. I appreciate your understanding and the need for this change. Parents of students in our Pre-K program will receive an additional notification from our TECEC Principal, Dr. Wheeler.

Town Audit of BOE Finances

When my Business Manager and I took our current positions in mid-September, we knew full well that there were questions related to the budget and budget process for the Trumbull Public Schools. On Monday, January 4, 2021, the audit was officially provided to the school district. There are over 60 recommendations identified in the audit document and I take each of them seriously. Since we did not get a chance to review a draft of the audit, we were unable to provide our comment on the document until it was released. I will work closely with our Business Office, the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, and the Town Council to restore trust in the budgeting process and budget of the Trumbull Public Schools. Frankly, my Business Manager and I had identified many of the same concerns in the audit report and have been working to tighten controls and increase transparency of the budget. You can read the full text of the audit [here](#).

Sincerely,

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.