



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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January 30, 2021

Monthly Update – Almost February Edition

Reopening and Staying Open

It seems that there is a great deal of news about the COVID-19 pandemic. We hear about the new variants from different parts of the country and the efficacy of our current vaccines on these new variants. At the same time, we see the progress the State of Connecticut is making on vaccinating our most vulnerable citizens. Furthermore, we are told that citizens who are 65-74 years old are next in line and that information regarding essential workers (e.g., Trumbull Public Schools Staff) is coming soon. The most reliable information I have is that TPS staff will be vaccinated in March. I also know that this can change depending on the efficiency of the current process and the amount of vaccine allocated to CT. In my weekly joint meetings (every Tuesday from 8 am – 9 am) with the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education, we are given the most up-to-date information regarding the pandemic. We were told that the new variants of the virus appear to be more contagious. At the same time, we were told that the mitigation strategies used in schools have been working and that they should continue to work. Therefore, I ask that everyone remain vigilant about our mitigation strategies at home and at work. You can find information on these strategies by clicking [here](#). Finally, if you have not checked out our COVID-19 Dashboard that tracks the current number of quarantines and positive cases for students and staff, you can find it on our website [here](#), just scroll to the bottom of the page.

2021-2022 Budget

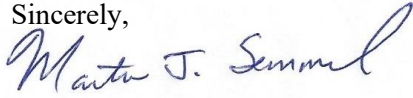
The Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget at their February 9, 2021 BOE meeting. My original proposal was for a 3.94% increase, but given 1) a recommendation in the Operational Review (received January 4, 2021) to increase our staff in the payroll department; and 2) a rise in the anticipated insurance increases from 6% to 8%, we are now requesting a 4.35% increase. It should also be noted that \$430,000 (or .39%) of the increase is to account for the yearly losses in the BOE's Special Revenue Accounts. This \$430,000 will not eliminate all the accrued deficits in the Special Revenue accounts, but should be enough to eliminate any additional deficits for the 2021-2022 school year. You can find our budget material on our website [here](#). The most recently updated budget request can be found [here](#).

Midyear Update on Goals

This past October the Board of Education adopted a set of goals for the 2020-2021 school year. I updated the BOE this past week on the progress the district has made on achieving these goals. I reminded the BOE that to accomplish these goals it takes every member of the TPS team. I am very proud of the work

that our entire staff has accomplished so far this year and I look forward to working with our entire community to have a great finish to the 2020-2021 school year. You can review the original [TPS Goals document](#) and the [Midyear Update](#) on our website. The Midyear Update is organized by goal. The blue text under each goal is the update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin J. Semmel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.