



Committed to Excellence

June 1, 2020

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

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To Trumbull Educational Community:

Needless to say, COVID-19 has impacted almost every facet of our lives over the past few months. A topic that has developed as one of the most important is high school graduation. I am very cognizant of the importance of this event for you and your soon-to-be-graduate and I would like to clarify some of the misconceptions concerning this issue.

At the very beginning, let me emphasize the district and our educational community both unintentionally have contributed to uncertainties regarding graduation and that is very unfortunate because we are not adversaries, but are on the same team. We both have two primary areas of focus: to provide a lasting and meaningful experience for our seniors; and to ensure that our program is a safe and memorable one that adheres to the guidelines and protocols issued by the Governor/Commissioner of Education. This latter goal has proven most difficult as on several occasions, the Governor has issued delayed guidelines that were later changed. Unfortunately, the THS original graduation plan came under intense criticism—even before the details were shared to the community.

High school graduations are school events planned and implemented by the school, however, given the current status with COVID-19, any graduation ceremony must comply the seemingly changing regulations from the Governor and CSDE. These not typical times and the school leaders no longer have the autonomy to decide all the elements of a graduation ceremony. Principal Marc Guarino will increase his communication to the educational community regarding the specifics of the Trumbull High School graduation ceremony. He also has formed an Advisory Committee to oversee the event, per the Commissioner's recommendation. This group includes individuals who have knowledge and experience in this area or are familiar with aspects of COVID—19 and public safety (Trumbull Health Director, Emergency Management Director, District Security Supervisor, and the Trumbull Police Department) as well as THS students, teachers, and administrators and THS parents Jen Mottolese and Dean Fabrizio.

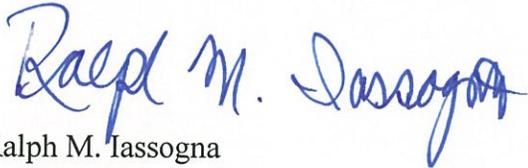
Please note that principals across the state are at the “mercy” of the Governor/Commissioner as it relates to many event details. Unfortunately, as noted on several occasions, state protocols have been delayed or issued and then rescinded or modified. A perfect example of this problem recently occurred in the past few days. THS was going to release the details of our Saturday, June 20th high school graduation, but the Governor issued new protocols that could definitely impact not only our plan, but others in the state. The THS group soon will reconvene, formulate, and distribute a final program in compliance with the new protocols, hopefully by Friday, June 5th.

A Community Committed to Excellence

Although the ceremony may now change, you should know that the plan that THS originally developed was similar to over 60% of school districts surveyed in a recent Connecticut Association of Public School Administrators (CAPSS) survey, including Greenwich.

As we proceed, please know that I, as well as other Superintendents have personally expressed our dissatisfaction to the Governor. Also, please appreciate that we value your input, but also realize that districts must comply with the guidelines and protocols set forward by the state. Also, please know that the final Trumbull plan will never replicate the ceremonies of years' past, but will recognize, as best we can, the value of our students.

Thank you and be safe and healthy.



Ralph M. Iassogna
Acting Superintendent