

Board of Education President's Report

Mark Curtis

April 15, 2020

Good evening students, families, and employees of Twinsburg City Schools. I am Mark Curtis and I am proud to be your Board President.

I hope everyone was able to have a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday. This evening marks the first public regular board meeting that we've had in over a month. It also marks the first time in history that our meeting has been held in a virtual setting. While we would certainly prefer to have meetings where we are acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of our students and staff, the global pandemic known as Covid #19 has altered not only the way we function as a board, but also the way in which we serve our students.

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on how we as a district have responded to the statewide closure of public schools by Governor DeWine. As you all know, we are in the midst of unprecedented times. The last few weeks have been extremely challenging for many school districts throughout the nation. And while education is our primary responsibility, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff also remain a priority during this health crisis. As such, we have been vigilant in making sure we are in compliance with maintaining social distancing and following guidance issued by the Governor's office as well as the CDC and other health organizations.

I am especially proud of the level of dedication, commitment, and compassion our staff has exhibited after being thrust into a complete educational paradigm shift. Countless hours have been spent working, planning, and meeting to adjust our approach to serving our students. Traditionally, education has been a business predicated upon building relationships that allow teachers to better understand how students learn and adapt teaching to improve outcomes. These interactions often require staff to work closely with students while also collecting data to determine the effectiveness of academic interventions.

Our current reality does not allow for these close and personal interactions, however the level of creativity that has been employed to continue delivering education online has been amazing. I have enjoyed seeing the twitter feeds, Facebook posts, and videos that document the journey of our students and staff. Everyday, we make history, and we will one day look back upon this time and appreciate how adversity brought us closer as a district.

I would be remis if I didn't also acknowledge the resilience of our parents for acting as surrogate teachers and assisting in facilitating the learning of their children. While it hasn't been easy, we have all managed to make the best of it during this difficult time.

As a board, we will continue to do what is necessary in supporting our students and staff. We have worked to make adjustments to planned activities such as prom, graduation, and fieldtrips in hopes that we will still be able to conduct them.

Regardless of the circumstances, I know that we will get through this together. I ask that you continue to stay engaged, be safe, and most importantly, stay healthy. We look forward to celebrating with you again.

I will now turn the meeting over to our Superintendent, Mrs. Powers.