

Board of Education President's Report

Mark Curtis

February 5, 2020

Good evening and welcome parents, visitors, and administration of R.B. Chamberlin Middle School and Samuel Bissell Elementary School. I'm Mark Curtis and I appreciate the honor of being your board president.

As February marks the celebration of Black History month, all schools throughout the district will be hosting various activities with staff and students to commemorate the achievements of African-Americans. I encourage all of you to participate in helping our students learn about the sacrifice as well as contributions made in shaping our nation's history. Although we celebrate Black History in February, we strive to recognize these achievements every day in the children we serve. We continue to support culturally relevant curriculum and programming, diversity in our hiring practices, and providing professional development to our staff on culturally responsive practices.

I will now switch gears to discuss current legislative issues that are impacting many districts throughout Ohio, and could potentially impact our own. You may have heard or read about the EdChoice voucher expansion program that was set to go into effect on February 1st of this year. If enacted, the proposed legislation would have allowed for the increase in the of families eligible to attend private/parochial schools at the expense of public school districts.

At our last board meeting on January 22nd, this board passed a resolution against this proposed expansion. Although there are many reasons for our opposition, a primary concern is the negative financial impact this program has on school districts state foundation funding. Additionally, many of the students eligible for these vouchers are those who have never step foot in the districts in which they reside. Finally, eligibility for the proposed legislation is predicated upon a flawed state report card system which identifies schools that are considered failing. Although there were no Twinsburg City Schools scheduled to be identified, the greater concern is a legislature that continues to pass laws which place a greater

burden upon our tax payers to make up the difference for what we do not receive in state funding.

This board and our Superintendent has been in contact with Senator Kristina Roegner and Representative Casey Weinstein regarding these concerns. I would like to give special thanks to Representative Weinstein for keeping us abreast of “in the moment” legislative activities regarding this proposed expansion. As a result of intense statewide advocacy on behalf of public education, enactment of this legislation was tabled for 60 days in hopes of working out a better solution.

We implore you as members of the Twinsburg community and constituents of our elected officials in Columbus to reach out and continue to express the same concerns that we have. Collectively, we can make a difference in protecting this district and ensuring that we are able to continue to deliver the best possible education to your children.

I will now turn the meeting over to our Superintendent, Mrs. Powers, for the Superintendent’s report.