

## **Board of Education President's Report**

**Mark Curtis**

**May 6, 2020**

Good evening Parents, Residents, and Administration of the Twinsburg City Schools. I am Mark Curtis and I am humbled to be your board President.

This week marks Staff Appreciation Week for public schools nationwide. As a board, we have made it a tradition to recognize our outstanding staff during every board meeting throughout the regular school year. However, given the challenges we have faced during the COVID 19 pandemic, I am especially pleased to recognize our district staff for all that they have done in adapting to serving our families in a virtual environment. While it has been difficult, you have risen to the challenge by going above and beyond what is necessary in working together for a common cause. You have shown compassion for what our community has had to endure, and true commitment in providing the very best educational experience under extreme circumstances. While many of your days have been long and exhausting, please know that we truly appreciate all that you are doing now, and all year long.

Over the last two days, you may have seen our seniors walking around in their caps and gowns. You may have also seen news stories of our plans in hosting a virtual graduation. Due to restrictions under the order given by Governor DeWine, we are unable to provide a traditional graduation send off to our seniors. I'm sure I speak for many in expressing sincere sadness for what they are not able to experience. To that end, our staff has worked tirelessly around the clock to be creative in coming up with an alternative experience that we hope proves memorable for all.

I would like to specifically acknowledge some key individuals for their contribution in making our virtual graduation become a reality. They are Donna Houston, Superintendent Powers, Dr. Hebert, Alex Popovich, Mike Silverthorn, John Moeschberger, Brian Fantone, Tonia Brennen, David Zsoldos, Brittany Hartory, Anne Gorman, Anthony Byrd, and Joseph Schmook. We appreciate all

that you have done to bring this to fruition and look forward to seeing the finished product.

Lastly, I would like to discuss the Governor's announced cuts to K-12 education statewide. Yesterday, the Governor announced total cuts to state aid as a result of the severe economic impact the health pandemic has had on our state budget. Specifically, he announced:

- \$300M from K-12 school foundation aid (school funding line item)
- \$55M additional education budget cuts

K-12 foundation aid is essentially 39% of the overall cuts. When you add all cuts to primary and secondary education, K-12 education accounts for 46% of the cuts.

Today, he announced the impact of these cuts by individual district. Twinsburg City Schools is expected to experience \$874,259 in cuts to state foundation aid through the end of this fiscal year. Given all that our district has endured along with many others, this is certainly unwelcome news. As Legislative Liaison, I have been in contact with both State Representative Casey Weinstein, and State Senator Kristina Roegner. In recognizing the need for the state to address budget shortfalls, I asked that they convey our concerns of how these cuts may impact our district.

As we have just learned of these cuts, we will work with administration to assess and determine their impact on our operations moving forward. It is no secret that these are indeed tough times for our community. I also know that we will get through this. As evidenced by what I've spoken about earlier, we are a resilient community. We come together in times of adversity, and there is reason to believe we will be stronger when this is over.

We remain Tiger Strong and Tiger Proud.

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