



BROCKPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

Sean C. Bruno

Board President

Terry Ann Carbone

Board Vice President

Jeffrey Harradine

Board Members

David Howlett
Daniel Legault
Robert Lewis
Kathy Robertson
Michael Turbeville

April 1, 2021

Senator Jeremy A. Cooney
188 State St.
Legislative Office Building, Room 808
Albany, NY 12247
cooney@nysenate.gov

Assemblyman Josh Jensen
LOB Room 722
Albany, NY 12248
jensenj@nyassembly.gov

Assemblyman Stephen Hawley
LOB 521
Albany, NY 12248
HawleyS@nyassembly.gov

Senator Robert G. Ort
Capitol Building, Room 315
Albany, NY 12247
ortt@nysenate.gov

Dear Senators Cooney and Ort, and Assemblymen Hawley and Jensen,

As members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Brockport Central School District, we are responsible for providing a quality education and opportunities for success to more than 3,000 students residing within your legislative districts. Due to our daily health screenings, hand washing, superior mask hygiene, and thorough daily cleanings, we are pleased to report that there has been no documented spread of COVID-19 within our District since the onset of the pandemic.

We demand that the Legislature take immediate action to force implementation of the most recent CDC guidance permitting students to attend in-person instruction while keeping a minimum 3-foot distance from one another. We have submitted an updated plan to NYSED and DOH incorporating a reduction from the current 6-foot rule. This updated metric reflects current science and will allow enhanced educational opportunities while keeping our students and employees safe. Under this revised plan, Brockport would be able to bring back all students for full time, in-person instruction. We have received no response to this plan! To our knowledge, Albany has taken no action on the CDC's new guidance. California, Washington, Illinois, Indiana and other states have already acted on the CDC's conclusions. When did New York cease to be a leader in science and education?

We have been frustrated by the silence and inaction from Albany. It should be clear that the hybrid model our students have been forced to endure this year is a poor substitute for full time, in-person instruction. Despite herculean efforts by our outstanding educators and parents to make the best of a bad situation, our students are being shortchanged both instructionally and in their social-emotional development. To be added to these injuries, we have several insults: students in grades 3-8 are expected to participate in the annual state assessments; students enrolled in several Regents classes are expected to take exams that are challenging enough under normal circumstances; and our District has been subjected to a lawsuit demanding we ignore state mandates and reopen schools fully.

As our elected representatives, we demand that you move the adoption of the CDC's guidance of 3-foot distancing to the top of your agenda. It is time for intelligent, fact-based action to promote the best interests of our students. Local boards of education and superintendents are in the strongest position to decide how best to deliver instruction to their students within the bounds of accepted medical science, and must be empowered to do so in New York State. It is time for our students to be back in school!

To be clear, this issue should not be used as a chance to be partisan, for one branch of government to attack another, or for individual officials to grandstand. This is an opportunity for all elected officials in New York State to work together for the betterment of our most treasured resource: our children.

Our governing mantra at Brockport is that we are to put “Students First” in all things. Our administrators, faculty, staff, parents and Board of Education scrupulously follow this directive. We invite our elected representatives to do the same.

We look forward to your prompt explanation of what specifically you are doing to put our students first and empower us to return our students to school. We will be pleased to share your response with our common constituents.

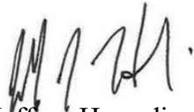
Respectfully,



Terry Ann Carbone, Board President



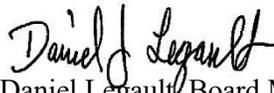
Sean C. Bruno, Superintendent



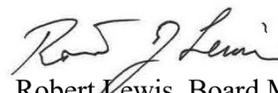
Jeffrey Harradine, Board Vice President



David Howlett, Board Member



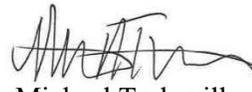
Daniel Legault, Board Member



Robert Lewis, Board Member



Kathy Robertson, Board Member



Michael Turbeville, Board Member

cc: Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State
Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.; Commissioner of NYS Department of Health
Adam J. Bello, Monroe County Executive
Michael D. Mendoza, M.D., M.P.H., MS; Commissioner of Public Health
Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner; New York State Education Department
Amy Thomas, President; Monroe County School Boards Association
Fred J. Langstaff, President; New York State School Boards Association
Jackie Smith, Legislator – 2nd District