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August 26, 2020

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community,

Final preparations to begin school with our hybrid instructional model are underway. I again want to reiterate that the health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff remain our top priority. A close second priority, is providing the social emotional support to faculty, staff, students and parents as we all transition back to the school. We are here for teaching and learning, and once our new procedures and protocols are established habits, they will fall into place.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have called or emailed with questions and comments over the recent weeks. I also want to thank all of you who provided questions, feedback and comments during our town hall meetings. All comments, questions and feedback have been read, shared and considered as we worked through developing our reopening plans. It is only through our school and community partnership that we are able to open schools with the confidence that we have. On behalf of the Board of Education, and all of us here in district – THANK YOU!

Should you have any remaining questions, I would again like to share with you links to some valuable resources on our website regarding the opening of school;

[District Plan including Building Level Procedures](#)
[Recording of 8/12 Town Hall Meeting](#)
[Recording of 8/19 Town Hall Meeting](#)
[Recording of 8/20 Elementary School Q&A Presentation](#)
[Recording of 8/20 Middle School Q&A Presentation](#)
[Recording of 8/20 High School Q&A Presentation](#)

We want everyone to be as comfortable with the reopening of school as possible. If after reviewing the information we have shared you still have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principal or myself. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are hopeful that the COVID testing and infection rates stay below the thresholds established by the Governor, and that our aspirations of opening schools at full capacity comes to fruition. That said, if things do go in another direction, we are prepared to deliver our distance learning model to our students. We will keep you updated as conditions change that may impact how we are operating here at school.

Finally, last evening the Board of Education appointed Dr. Bonnie Vest to fill the seat vacated by Mr. John Catalano in July. We are excited to have Dr. Vest joining our leadership team. Dr. Bonnie Vest, PhD is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Buffalo, and co-Director of Joining Forces-UB. Her research focuses on veterans' health, specifically substance use, mental health, and social environmental factors and the role of civilian primary care in caring for military populations. She also conducts evaluations of community programs to address the opioid crisis. Bonnie is the mother of three children at Cleveland Hill, Kyra (8th grade), Reagan (5th grade), and Connor (2nd

grade). Bonnie grew up outside of Chicago, Illinois, attended Miami University in Ohio, and then moved to the Buffalo area in 2003, and completed her Masters and PhD in anthropology at UB. Her skill set and experience will prove to be a valuable resource to the entire Cleveland Hill community.

I again want to thank you for your trust and support of the Cleveland Hill School District.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jon MacSwan

Superintendent