



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

Christopher Drezek; Superintendent of Schools; cdrezek@enfieldschools.org

1010 Enfield Street • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

TEL: 860.253.6533 • FAX: 860.253.6515 • WWW.ENFIELDSCHOOLS.ORG

April 15, 2020

Chris Bromson
Town Manager
Town of Enfield, CT

Dear Chris,

Since we first learned that this pandemic was on the horizon, we made a decision that we would work as partners to help the residents and students of Enfield get through this crisis the best that we could. I can't tell you how much I appreciate having you there with me as we collaboratively made major decisions that impacted the entire community. Whether it was being one of the first in the state to close schools or declare a State of Emergency, we have stood shoulder to shoulder during this incredible time in our history with one common goal in mind, doing what's best for the people of Enfield. Your partnership has also helped foster a spirit of collaboration between town and school departments, with all of us working together to get through these trying times. Just one example is our school "motorcades", giving kids an opportunity to have a moment of normalcy to see their teachers from a distance. But these events couldn't happen without the overwhelming support from the Enfield Police and Fire Departments, which were able to contribute because of your support.

The Town of Enfield and the Enfield Public Schools have done a remarkable job meeting the needs of the entire community in these extraordinary times and every resident should be extremely proud of their towns effort. I know I speak for you when I say that we couldn't be prouder to serve the people of Enfield, and we are extremely fortunate to have the people working for the town and the schools to help us through this journey.

Although we're still dealing with a public health crisis, we know that our work continues and the ramifications of this pandemic will have a significant financial impact on the town in the days to come. Like we have done since the beginning, we have been working together daily to address the needs of the community, while recognizing the reality of the economic impact. In the same spirit of partnership, I recognize that an increase to **the Board of Educations budget request is not something that is feasible at this time. The people of Enfield** have shown us that even during the of worst times, we may bend, but we won't break. A flat funding of the districts budget will put a strain on the system, but I don't believe it will break us. Although this isn't something we can sustain every year, I believe that we can help the community weather the storm this year and do our part to help the town during this uncertain time. I believe we can accomplish this with keeping our two major priorities intact; minimal impact on student programs and not laying off any staff members. We may not be able to do all the things we were hoping to with our original request, but as long as we can meet the most important goals that I've mentioned above, we will continue to do our best. In the event the State honors their commitments down the road, I would restore any cuts that are needed to be made, but in the meantime we can make the required reductions through attrition and not have to lay any employees off. I have shared this with district leadership and everyone is willing to do their part to help get through this.

I've never been more confident that we will get through this, and that we will be stronger on the other side. As long as we continue to stick together, our community will be in position to thrive once this cloud is lifted. In the meantime, feel free to share this with council if you believe its appropriate. I thank you again for your partnership, but more importantly your friendship as we continue to do great things for the Town of Enfield.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large capital 'C'.

Chris

Superintendent of Schools