



Dear Senator Nass and Representative Loudenberg,

First and foremost, I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well during this unprecedented health crisis in our country. Thank you for your dedication to the constituents of Rock County. As you are aware, the coronavirus pandemic has completely changed the landscape of how we service our students and community. We are writing to share with you the amazing work that is being done in our district, so that all children can continue to grow academically, socially and emotionally during the closure.

Our first and utmost priority during this pandemic is to ensure the safety, to the best of our ability, of our students, staff, and community. The Clinton Community School District has followed the lead of our local, state, and federal health field experts, and will continue to do so.

When we were first directed to close our school buildings in March, we did not realize it would be the last time our students would see their teachers. However, that is when our staff set off on an uncharted journey to implement an alternative learning plan for our 1100+ students.

In addition to our responsibility to educate, we responded to the need to continue to feed our students and their families. We appreciate our food service personnel, as they have worked tirelessly from day one to make sure anyone in our community 18 years of age or younger has access to meals. Last week, the District served 1606 meals at 5 serving locations throughout our community. Meal delivery will continue throughout the summer months, requiring significant resources to keep our most vulnerable fed.

Our custodial and maintenance staff have been working diligently on deep cleaning our buildings and are beginning the preparation steps to secure much needed personal protective equipment for when face to face instruction begins.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all of us and no one has been left unscathed. Our school district has responded to the best of our ability during this unprecedented time and our families have shown tremendous support for the actions we have taken. The future financial cost to ensure our buildings are safe from not only violent intruders, but now this silent and deadly enemy is appearing to be staggering. The uncertainty of what school will be like, including, securing staffers who are willing and able to work in the fall is daunting, especially during a massive teacher shortage. Districts like Clinton Community have significant hurdles to overcome and your continued support is necessary for our children to thrive and for our state to secure highly qualified, productive citizens to fill the positions of a growing workforce.

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The process for making sure we do the best for our students has required tremendous effort from us all. Teachers, support staff, and administration have worked tirelessly to provide our students with the best education possible during this unprecedented time. As a school board member, I understand the challenge of making unpopular and sometimes polarizing decisions. We urge you to keep the Clinton Community School District and others like us in your thoughts as you begin to consider and make difficult, valued, and principled decisions that will affect us all.

Sincerely,

*Kendrick Mike Bels Sam Lillback J. Dwyer
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