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**To:** Board of Education  
**From:** John H. Spang, Jr.  
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**Subject:** March 2020 YTD Expense Report

On March 31, 2020, Executive Order No. 7R (enclosed) from Governor Lamont addressed school budget spending. At this time when our schools have been closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic he presented directives through multiple Executive Orders from 7A to 7T regarding closing schools, social distancing, and stay-at-home directives among many other topics. After students attended school for nine days in March, area public schools, including our own, were closed on March 13, 2020. As of this writing, schools will remain closed through April 20, 2020, however, we anticipate by April 10 that the Commissioner of Education will extend the closure.

Executive Order 7R encourages schools as employers to assign plausible work to their employees in exchange for continued employment. However, labor law requires that any such working conditions be bargained collectively whenever either labor or management is advocating a change. As a consequence, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been recently negotiated to redeploy our employees in the support of our educational continuity and virtual learning. As the Superintendent has stated several times, "We are not unemployed. We are redeploying." Paramount among these is a paradigm shift into our newly created digital classrooms a conduit for remote or distance student learning with social distancing.

The Order leaves open the contractual negotiation of payments expected by suppliers and vendors that remain unfulfilled. These contractors can be required to attest to and provide reasonable documentation. But with very few of these negotiations yet to begin, forecasting their eventual monetary outcomes is not possible at this time.

Despite the absence of particulars, I am now generally expecting our unencumbered balance as of June 30, 2020, to be higher than the \$100,000 projected last month. But with so many new variables suddenly becoming critical projection factors, assigning a number to the increase is not reliable until Executive Order 7R becomes more fully operational.