

June 4, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Parents and Guardians,

The end of the school year has arrived so quickly. On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to sincerely thank you for your support over the past 10 months, especially during the time we moved to remote learning. It has not escaped me that during this time many of you suddenly took on collaborative, co-teaching roles to help your children, although you had never taught before. You managed this while perhaps facing your own professional, personal, or financial challenges.

No one could have foreseen the impact that COVID-19 would have on our nation, or on our community. But I believe it was a combination of family connectivity, community spirit, and our determined educators and staff that made it possible for Hawthorn to persevere and continue to thrive. We are all very proud of your children and would like to congratulate them on completing another successful school year. You can be very proud of their accomplishments.

With respect to the fall, we have teams already planning and preparing for our return. This work is in anticipation of what we believe guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) may look like for schools across the state. We anticipate receiving ISBE's guidance and recommendations for the start of our 2020-2021 school year in early July. Once received, our top priority will be to finalize and share our plans with the community.

As you know, this was my first year at Hawthorn. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the staff, teachers, students, parents, and community members who play such an important role in making this school district a special place. I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and all the support you provided to me during my first year. I am very proud to say that I am the superintendent at Hawthorn, and that I work with a community that is so supportive of our students.

On a final note, I want to express how saddened we are by the tragedy in Minneapolis. I am sure that for many families it has provoked a wide range of emotions, from sadness to frustration. This is a time for us to take pause, to listen and see in what ways we can be more helpful to each other as a community. If you are in need of support, there is a [list of resources](#) on our website that may be of use to you.

Again, thank you for all that you do to help your children succeed. I hope that you and your family have a great summer, and enjoy a well-deserved break.

Sincerely,

Peter Hannigan, Ed.D
Superintendent