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December 22, 2023

Parents, Staff, and Friends of the Hartford Union High School District,

As elves, reindeer, and some gingerbread appear in the hallways at HUHS, we know the spirit in the building this week is just a kickoff to the excitement our students and staff have for the upcoming holiday break. It is during these special times that I again share my deepest gratitude and appreciation, with every student, staff member, family, and friend serving as a very integral part of our Hartford Union High School community.

Here are the highlights from the regularly scheduled school board meeting held on December 18:

- Our student board representatives from each grade shared thoughts on community engagement, course scheduling, ACT, mental health and wellness, new course offerings, and Oriole Time!
- Mr. Joe Minton, the chair of the Facilities Citizens Advisory Committee provided an update on the work of that team of community and staff members. The next committee meeting is Monday, January 8 from 5:30-8:00pm and there is a school board workshop focused on facility needs scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th beginning at 5:45pm. Please consider joining one or both of these conversations to learn more!
- Ms. Cori Michalowski, the chair of the Human Growth & Development Citizens Advisory Committee presented an update highlighting the two meetings held so far, how the committee is working within Policy 2414, and the committee's continuing work.
- Mr. Rob Nelson, Executive Director of Business Services and Human Resources shared updated budget projections. At this point with a number of built-in assumptions, the district is projecting a deficit of over 1.6 million dollars, where the revenue being generated is not able to keep up with the district's ongoing expenses. Our district's leadership team is continuing to review recommendations to address these challenges and I would encourage you to attend the school board meeting on Monday, January 15th, beginning at 5:45pm to learn more about the district's financial challenges.
- The school board approved new fees for select courses for the 2024-25 school year, which can be found in the Academic and Career Planning Guide as you work with your student to select coursework for next year.
- I shared with the board the district will continue to collect feedback from our stakeholders, (students, staff, and parents) and is planning for these surveys to be sent out in the first couple of weeks of January. We thank you ahead of time for your participation in sharing how we are doing and recommending areas to focus our improvement efforts.
- I also shared an update on the unfortunate accident that occurred in the intersection of Cedar Street and Monroe Avenue before school on November 30th. In meeting with City of Hartford Administrator Steve Volkert, we reviewed accident data from across the City of Hartford, finding that since 2001 this is the second accident with injury to happen within that intersection. With that, we have agreed to recommend some additional safety enhancements to the Public Works Committee on January 23, and eventually on to the Hartford City Council. It is my hope we might see some of these improvements

rolled out in the near future. Our thoughts continue to be with those impacted by the event that day, and my encouragement to all of you to be part of the solution in working together to assure the safety, security, and welfare of everyone within the Hartford Union High School community.

Thank you again for your engagement in the work of our district! We have significant budget challenges ahead, with the projection for the 2024-25 school year being more than double the deficit of this year. Please continue to monitor our newsletters, social media, and email communication for future opportunities to engage further in these very important conversations.

A new tool available for all stakeholders to access our school board agendas and supplementary materials is BoardDocs. Please click [here](#) to take a look around! Also, please visit our customer service [link](#) if you, at any time, would be interested in providing feedback, or have a question about the work we are doing at Hartford Union High School.

Take care of yourself, and each other, and may your holiday season be filled with warmth and everlasting joy!

Go Orioles!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Walters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Jeffrey A. Walters, Superintendent
Hartford Union High School District