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FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Robert Rubbo, MPH, R.S.
Director of Health
Torrington Area Health District
rrubbo@tahd.org

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Dear Director Rubbo,

This letter is by way of follow-up to our conversation earlier today regarding the four proposed options for the Thomaston High School Graduation Ceremony.

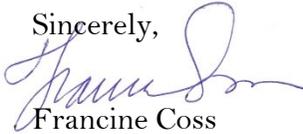
The Thomaston High School Graduation Ceremony is scheduled to occur on Monday, June 15, 2020. As we discussed, the Thomaston Board of Education will be meeting to discuss proposed options and seek your advice on each. The four options are described below:

- Option 1 – Virtual Ceremony: A virtual ceremony will be live-streamed. Student speeches will be recorded at home by those students and submitted electronically for the live-streamed event. When each student's name is called, his/her still photograph will be displayed.
- Option 2 – Enhanced Virtual Ceremony (on stage): By appointment, each student, dressed in cap and gown with no mask, will enter the school's auditorium and be video recorded walking across the stage. The door to the auditorium will be kept ajar so that no student will have to touch the doorknob. Each student will pick up his/her diploma from a table on the stage and pose for a still photograph. The table will be disinfected between student appointments. The video and still photograph will be incorporated into the virtual graduation ceremony presentation.
- Option 3 – Enhanced Virtual Ceremony (outdoor mascot): By appointment, each student, dressed in cap and gown with no mask, will approach the outdoor life-sized mascot (carved wooden bear) from the right side of the outdoor mascot. Each student will pick up his/her diploma from a table on the right side of the mascot and pose for a still photograph. The table will be disinfected between student appointments. The still photograph will be incorporated into the virtual graduation ceremony presentation.

- Option 4 – In-Person: The graduation ceremony will take place in the back parking lot, both the graduating seniors and the audience will remain in their cars for the duration of the ceremony. Staging will be set up so that each student and faculty speaker may address the audience. The event will be broadcast so that the audience may access the ceremony on their FM radio and/or on a personal electronic device. At the end of the ceremony, graduating seniors will be called to walk across the stage, stand alone for a still photograph, and exit the stage to immediately return to their car. No bathroom access will be offered.

Thank you for taking the time today to hear about these options and to offer your written response to the same.

Sincerely,



Francine Coss
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education
John Perrucci, Thomaston High School Principal
Kristin Raymond, Thomaston High School Assistant Principal