



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

October 5, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There seems to be a lot of discussion on social media regarding our new COVID Coordinator position at Central Square. At last night's Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education approved an intermunicipal agreement between the Central Square Central School District and the Hannibal School District where Central Square would be responsible to pay the COVID Coordinator \$60,000 and Hannibal was responsible to pay the COVID Coordinator \$40,000, and our COVID Coordinator required no health benefits.

The confusion was that some community members thought that the Central Square School District was paying the entire share of the \$100,000, which was not the case, as illustrated by the intermunicipal agreement that was also on last night's Board agenda and was part of last night's Board of Education meeting. As originally agreed upon, if we were to dissolve the intermunicipal agreement, then the COVID Coordinator's salary would be reduced to \$70,000, and the individual would continue to refuse all health benefits. Given the substantial, ongoing spike in COVID-19 positive cases that we are experiencing (137 cases as of 3 pm today) and the uncertainty of this surge in cases in our County, the COVID Coordinator and I were in complete agreement this afternoon to not officially begin the intermunicipal agreement with Hannibal, so he can be fully prepared to fulfill all of his responsibilities for Central Square, even if the surge in COVID cases remains constant. The COVID Coordinator is a temporary civil service position through Oswego County. When we called the Civil Service Office we were told that the position had not existed, and therefore, there were no list of candidates and no civil service exam associated with this new position. They asked for a list of preferred skills/abilities and for a detailed job description for the position, which can be seen here,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qqJ8zuunnwOuFMLwEkg5LOst6gfrOvZq/view?usp=sharing>.

The Civil Service Office then stated that we could post the position and to send them the resumes of the candidates that applied. We posted the position on [OLAS](#) as well as our District website and we had only one candidate, who also happened to be very qualified. We can only assume that no one else applied by the September 17 deadline because the following was clearly stated on the posting, **"Type of Position: Civil Service temporary position for a "special project" for up to 18 months - The COVID Coordinator will be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week (includes weekends and holidays)**. It appears that there are not many people who are interested in a position where they are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including all holidays.

The COVID Coordinator salary will come directly out of the COVID federal relief money that every school district has been allocated specifically for schools to remain operational throughout the pandemic, and it is not coming out of school tax money. We did not raise school taxes for this school year and we are not raising school taxes for next year either. We are utilizing the COVID relief money allocated to our School District that must be spent over the next three years on providing tutoring for students, enrichment opportunities so students can reengage in their school community after a year where many were fully or partially remote learners. We are also utilizing COVID relief money to drastically reduce quarantines by paying staff to supervise student lunches in their classrooms so we can spread students out beyond six feet, which is the NYSDOH acceptable distance when students are eating and masks are off so no one has to be quarantined at lunch. While our cases continue to spike as we experienced 21 new positive COVID cases already this week, the average number of students that were mandated to quarantine per positive case remains low because we are spacing students out, leaving busing and sports as our most vulnerable activities because students cannot remain three feet from an infected person in those locations. We will continue to do everything in our power to reduce quarantines and provide our students with the very best educational program that we can. Thank you and enjoy your family time.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo/Superintendent