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**NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

November 4, 2008

Patricia A. Lally
Principal
Tewksbury Memorial High School
320 Pleasant Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Dear Ms. Lally:

The Commission on Public Secondary Schools, at its September 28-29, 2008 meeting, reviewed the Special Progress Report of Tewksbury Memorial High School and continued the school's accreditation. While the Commission acknowledges some progress made by the school as noted below, until all concerns have been satisfactorily resolved, the school will remain on warning for the Standards for Accreditation on Curriculum and Community Resources for Learning. Following a thorough discussion of information submitted, the Commission removed the school from warning for the Standard on School Resources for Learning.

The Commission expressed continued and strong concerns related to ongoing fiscal constraints which negatively impact the delivery of the school's educational programs and services as discussed in the Special Progress Report. Included among the most recent concerns reported are the following:

- the reduction of a number of teaching positions in the areas of math , social studies, English, special education, art, and applied arts
- the reduction of the school psychologist from two days each week to one day each week to service a student enrollment of over 1100 students
- the reduction of the only full-time guidance secretary and a hall monitor
- the elimination of some courses and multiple sections of the same electives
- the increased class size with twenty-seven classes having enrollments of over 30 students

- the increase in student user fees with no provision for any individual or family cap
- the delays in the planned renovation/conversion of the industrial arts shop areas into science labs for the freshman program
- the reduction in each of the school's requested line-item accounts based on the passage of a reduced budget following the unsuccessful override vote in June 2008

Accordingly, the Commission requests that school officials submit another Special Progress Report by June 1, 2009 providing detailed information on action taken to complete the following:

- submit the FY10 line-item budget and assess its level of adequacy to fully and appropriately support the school's educational programs and services
- report the reinstatement of teaching and support staff positions which were eliminated for the 2008-09 school year and assess their adequacy
- submit information on electives that have been reinstated and assess their adequacy in supporting the school's learning expectations
- submit class size for each course by teacher for the current school year and the projected figures for the 2009-2010 school year
- submit information regarding all user fees and report any reduction in student participation in school activities, clubs, and athletics during the current school year

Further, the Special Progress Report should also include detailed responses to the following recommendations:

- confirm the scheduled appointment of a project manager in Summer 2008 to oversee a future high school construction project
- update progress on the development of a schematic design for a new high school facility
- confirm the original plan to present a bond issue to the voters in Fall 2009 seeking approval of a new high school facility

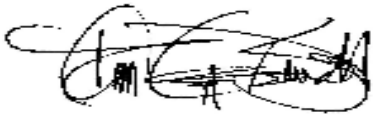
The decennial evaluation report of Fall 2005 cites the negative impact of the ongoing fiscal constraints under which the school and the school system have had to operate over the past several years as well as dire facilities issues. To date, limited, if any, significant progress has been demonstrated to address/resolve the multiplicity of concerns. Accordingly, school and system officials and the local governing body are reminded that Tewksbury High School has been on warning since March 2006 with limited demonstrated progress throughout the Follow-Up phase of the decennial process in resolving the issues identified by the Commission. The Commission's Guideline on Schools with Facilities Deficiencies, a copy of which has been enclosed for your convenience, states that a member school is expected to develop a plan and timeline to resolve identified deficiencies in two years and to seek and secure funding to resolve such deficiencies within five years. Failure to demonstrate such proactive efforts and progress will prompt the Commission to place the school on probation.

While the Commission remains concerned related to the identified issues, it was pleased to learn of the reorganization of guidance counselors' responsibilities which has reduced the counselor/counselee ratio to below 1:300, including the designation of a full-time counselor for the freshman transition program and the designation of lead teachers in foreign language and wellness departments to replace department heads in those areas.

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The school's warning status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Special Progress Report. Consistent with the Commission's follow-up procedures, the Special Progress Report should be signed by the principal and chair of the Follow-Up Committee and sent to the Commission office in duplicate by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Gray-Bennett', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pamela Gray-Bennett

PGB/mms
Enclosure

cc: Christine McGrath, Superintendent, Tewksbury Public Schools
Scott J. Consaul, Esq., Chair, Tewksbury School Committee
Thomas R. Moore, Chair, Commission on Public Secondary Schools