**Sample letter to the editor from the superintendent**:

At the risk of telling readers something everybody knows, these are unprecedented times, and district and county offices of education throughout the country are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to making sure children in our community remain fed, physically safe, mentally cared for and, of course, continue learning as they would any other year.

But 2020 simply wasn’t like any other year. The COVID-19 pandemic has displaced students, exhausted resources and tested us like never before.

[District name] commends the tireless work of our teachers and support staff. All of the care and compassion for students and their families that they have shown this last year is evidence that improving outcomes for children has been, and will continue to be, the reason we all put in extraordinary time and effort into this work.

I am also proud to join more than 1,000 local educational agencies in the state in recognizing the contributions of board members during School Board Recognition Month. Though they may not always be the ones working day-to-day, face-to-face with our students, [District name]’s board members have worked tirelessly to help our district establish new ways of ensuring students continue to learn.

Board members are our elected representatives and a vital link between the school district and the community. The board sets the foundation and vision for the district, directs resources where they are most needed, and ensures accountability to the community by monitoring progress toward goals. Their end goal, of course, is to support and elevate student achievement.

During this challenging year, the [District name] Board of Trustees has worked to [give specific district examples here. Suggestions: efforts to close the digital divide, bring all instruction online, provide food services for children even when they are not in school, efforts to direct resources to students most in need, provide social-emotional support, etc].

Their efforts, alongside those of our educators, food service, custodial and all other staff, have helped to ensure the children in our community were not left behind during this pandemic.

The [District name] board members are [list board members]. I hope you will join me in saluting our hard-working board members for their support of our students through effective policies and for their continuing advocacy for more resources at the state level.