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April 9, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, Parent/Guardians, Community Members;

Last evening it was confirmed by the Commissioner of Education and the Governor, that remote/distance learning would be occurring for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This would mean that our Continuous Learning Plan passed by the School Board last evening will be in effect until June 19, 2020.

I find no joy in this announcement and can only imagine the challenges that it brings and the disappointment of anticipated activities and rites of passage. I do understand, however, the state's recommendation of not returning to our buildings to enhance social distancing and hopefully ensuring safety during this pandemic. We are also hearing, though it is not yet confirmed, that the Governor's stay at home order will be extended past the current May 1st deadline.

We will continue to work on improving and refining our learning plan as we move forward and are working on plans on areas impacting the end of the school year. Information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks, but here are a few items that can be addressed at this time:

*Extended Year Programming – We do not know yet whether it will be virtual or in our buildings, but we will prepare for both. It is important to us to provide this service for those students who qualify. Information will be provided as we build the program.

*Next Year's Class Enrollment – We will have a plan available to make sure all students are properly enrolled in classes in grades 6-12. Class placements PreK-5 will be made in the usual time frame.

*Retrieval of Personal Belongings – Over time we will provide you a schedule that maintains social distancing and the safety of staff and students for each building.

*Graduation and End of the Year Events – Our hearts go out to our BHS seniors and their families. We are discussing possible alternatives to honor their achievement, as well as other end of the year events. The prom has already been cancelled.

*Transition to Kate Furbish Elementary School – We will be developing a plan to make sure our classrooms are packed, moved and set up in time for the opening of the school in August.

*Food Delivery – Our food service delivery will be maintained throughout until June 19th at its current schedule.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding as we continue this journey. May we all find an ability to look for the opportunities it presents.

Sincerely,
Paul K. Perzanoski
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