Dear Parents and Staff,

The situation in Massachusetts is evolving by the hour around the Coronavirus issue. Yesterday afternoon, the state recommended that all out of state field trips be canceled and that there will be an adjustment of the requirements for the 180-day school year. In addition, there will be a joint conference call with the DESE and DPH on Thursday for school superintendents at which we may see additional suggestions for curtailing student activities.

This morning the leadership team met to continue planning the district’s response to the Coronavirus issue and made several decisions for the immediate future. Please know that these are made for cautionary purposes and that additional changes in student activities could occur at any time. The decisions made today are:

1. All field trips that would bring students outside of the district are canceled
2. All events that involve out-of-district individuals or groups of more than 25 (i.e., proms, work-study, internships, competitions, etc. are canceled)
3. District events such as the high school play, concerts, talent show, and school assemblies may continue but without an outside audience (no parents, family, friends, community members - we will tape and/or live stream the events so that people can see them)
4. After school activities for students held in the district will continue at this time
5. The athletic schedule will remain in place at this time
6. We are continuing with the regular school day and attendance policies at this time

I anticipate that the state will recommend suspending after-school activities and athletics at some point in the future, at that time we will follow those recommendations. When this occurs, we will notify parents, students and staff members. If current conditions across the state continue in the same direction, it is conceivable that we will need to close schools for a significant amount of time. Under the new DESE guidelines, the most days we would have to make up would be the five snow days that are built into the calendar (and we’ve used two of those to date). As educators, we realize a long closure would impact learning time and student progress, thus we will be working with our staff to develop some form of distance learning to help alleviate the loss of time. As these guidelines are established, we will share that with families.

Sincerely,

David B. Hopson
Superintendent