Dear Stoughton Schools Community-

After significant deliberation with our administrative team, a statewide conference call with the Commissioner of Education and the Department of Public Health, based on the overwhelming feedback I have received from our school community, in consultation with our neighboring districts, and, most importantly, to take the necessary steps to ensure our staff, students and families are helping to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Stoughton Public Schools will be closed beginning March 16th until Friday March 27, 2020. This includes all school-related activities scheduled to take place during this time. This decision was not made lightly. We recognize that this represents a major disruption in people’s daily lives, but we feel this is essential to better protect the overall health of our community based on the information we have now.

Regardless of the number of days the schools are closed, the last day of school will be Monday, June 22, 2020. We do NOT have to make up any more than this year’s five standard “snow” days.

School Work
We are treating the first four days as the equivalent of “snow days.” Similar to a snow day, teachers will not be sending work home. During this time, principals and staff will be developing learning experiences for students outside of school to ensure the continuation of learning even while the facilities remain closed. Principals will provide further information on continuity of learning experiences by Thursday, March 19th. Be on the lookout for those details next week.

School Access
School and district administrators will be in offices as usual, but public access to schools will remain closed. Please feel free to reach us by phone or email.

Faculty members will be able to come in to school on Monday, March 16th. This will allow the schools to be completely cleaned and thoroughly disinfected over the next several days. This also promotes social distancing, a critical component of slowing the spread of the virus.

Food Services
Beginning on Monday, March 16th, we will be making “grab and go” breakfast and lunch bags available for ANY Stoughton Public Schools student. We will have three drive-thru locations, one at the Dawe, one at the Gibbons, and one at OMS. Parent/guardian or student pick-up times will be 9:30 to 11:30 AM each weekday. Further details will follow.

We cannot overemphasize enough that the purpose of closing schools is to ensure that social distancing is occurring across our community. While it would be easy to view this time as “vacation,” we expect our students to continue to be engaged in academic activities, and to minimize their interaction with large groups. By Thursday, parents and students will be receiving more specific instructions from their school. However, I will continue to send out updates frequently as this fluid situation continues to evolve.

Please reach out with any questions. Thank you so much!

Dr. John Marcus, Superintendent