

March 15, 2020

RSU 16 Families and Community,

RSU 16 has been continually monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within any of the schools. However, in an effort to be proactive in protecting the health and safety of our community, RSU 16 schools will be closed Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th. This includes the use of all athletic fields and facilities affiliated with RSU 16. This decision was made in consultation with many and out of an abundance of caution to follow the rapidly changing guidance regarding enhancing social distancing efforts to flatten the curve. This decision has not been made lightly and we certainly empathize and understand the significant burden this will cause families in the coming days.

Our staff will not report on Monday, March 16, 2020 so the Administrative Team can meet to develop next steps to providing educational opportunities. In the coming days, we will be communicating our plan to allow for Remote Learning Opportunities from home.

Last week, we were notified by the US DOE that we will be able to provide breakfast and lunch for our students through a food program similar to our summer programming. This is a large undertaking so I ask that you be patient as we try to work through the logistics of making this a reality. We hope to start the feeding program on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 with breakfast then lunch, details to follow.

Our web page www.rsu16.org will serve as the most reliable hub for information as well as our official Facebook page, Regional School Unit 16.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to commend each of our stakeholders who are contributing positive energy and dynamic solutions to our schools' response to this fluid situation. We as a district shall remain composed, collected and compassionate as we navigate through any challenges we face now and in the future. While nothing is certain there is one thing that I know for sure and it is this: as we move forward it will be nearly impossible for us to quantify if we did too much or hit the panic button too soon. It will however be very easy to know if we did too little. That is not something I can live with. The safety of students, staff, and the RSU 16 community is our top priority.

Stay tuned for updates as they become available.

Kenneth J. Healey

Superintendent of Schools