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March 13, 2020

Whitefish Bay School District Families,

The health of our students, staff, families, and communities is of utmost importance and we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020. In consideration of the unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, both the North Shore and Washington Ozaukee Public Health Departments support “medium length” school closures for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

The Whitefish Bay School District along with the following school districts: Brown Deer, Cedarburg, Fox Point- Bayside, Germantown, Glendale-River Hills, Grafton, Maple Dale-Indian Hill, Nicolet, Northern Ozaukee, Port Washington, Mequon-Thiensville, and Shorewood will be closing for the next four weeks with the possibility of extension. This means that our district buildings will be closing beginning Saturday, March 14, 2020 with school tentatively resuming April 13, 2020. April 13, 2020 was previously a staff development day and is now a student attendance day.

The District does not currently maintain or manage a formal online learning platform and will not be in position to do so for the near future. The Department of Public Instruction has strict parameters related to online/virtual programming and the infrastructure required for these remote minutes to count.

All schools and district recreation programming will be closed/canceled to the public during this time period. If you have any specific needs, please contact the main office of your child’s school or the Recreation Department. Further adjustments to our school calendar will be communicated in the near future.

The impact of a single case in any one school in a district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contacts include anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Thomsen