April 24, 2020

To: Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Students in the Green Bay Area Public School District

Re: School Closure during Public Health Emergency

On March 13, 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers directed the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to issue an Order for Statewide School Closure. This Order closed all public and private schools in the State of Wisconsin, effective March 18, 2020, in an effort to “prevent, suppress and control” the spread of the COVID-19 infectious disease. At that time, the State of Wisconsin anticipated schools would reopen on April 6, 2020.

On March 17, 2020, the Department of Health Services issued Emergency Order #5, which mandated that all schools “shall remain closed for the duration of the public health emergency or until a subsequent order lifts this specific restriction.” Subsequently, Emergency Order #28 was issued on April 16, 2020 directing that “Public and Private K-12 schools shall remain closed for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.”

All students in the Green Bay Area Public School District were on the District’s Spring Break from March 16, 2020 through March 20, 2020. Following the issuance of the statewide orders outlined above, the District advised all District families that students would not return to school following Spring Break. At this time, based upon the most recent order, all District schools will remain closed for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year.

On March 18, 2020, the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act” (FFCRA) was signed into law. This Act required employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide leave to parents who need to take time off due to school closures. Following passage of this law, many parent(s)/guardian(s) have contacted the District to request documentation of the school closure to provide to their employers. The purpose of this notification is to serve as such. If families have additional questions or concerns, those should be provided to the District’s legal department by calling (920) 448-2039, or e-mailing mthielcollar@gbaps.org.

Sincerely,

Melissa Thiel Collar
Legal Counsel

MTC:hln