Dear Merrimack Families,

Tonight I am providing just a brief but important update.  Tomorrow evening, April 1, there will be a special meeting of the Merrimack School Board at 7 PM to discuss school and district operations in the context of the COVID-19 health emergency.  The next  regularly scheduled school board meeting is April 6th.  However, since the governor's announcement regarding the extension of remote learning through May 4th at least, the school district is faced with a number of decisions and choices that it must begin to tackle and which must be shared with the school board in a timely manner.  For that reason we have elected to have a special meeting of the school board tomorrow evening.  Due to the governor's recent stay at home order, coupled with guidance from state and federal health officials, this meeting must be conducted remotely.  As you might imagine, this requirement adds a significant but necessary layer of complexity to the planning of this meeting to ensure adherence to all guidelines.  As a result,  we have spent the last few days working to ensure that we meet the criteria for remote meetings, including testing links and phone numbers today to ensure proper functionality for the meeting tomorrow evening.

Tomorrow afternoon we will send information necessary for the public to access the meeting using telephone (per the governor's order) or teleconferencing tools.  In addition, with help from our partners at Merrimack TV the school board meeting can be viewed on Channel 21 and on the various social media platforms utilized by Merrimack TV.  All of this effort is intended to provide as much access to the deliberations of the Merrimack School Board as is possible during these highly unusual times.  Despite the COVID-19 health emergency the business of the school district continues and we are grateful to all our community and district partners for their collaboration on this technical challenge to ensure as much public access to this meeting as we can provide.

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent