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This afternoon, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) informed district leaders that due to efforts to contain the spread of Coronavirus, they will recommend that the State Board of Education (SBE) mandate that all schools in Oklahoma remain closed through June 30, 2020. The SBE meeting will be held at 9:30 Wednesday morning and will be livestreamed on the OSDE Facebook page.

During the week of Spring Break, members of the Mid-Del administration met several times, in person and virtually, to discuss this crisis and plan. Today we were able to serve 1,067 meals to children in our community because of these efforts. We will monitor and consider ways to further improve meal delivery.

Over the break, we also discussed the possibility of not being able to return to school for the remainder of this school year. Since this now seems likely, we will be planning for how to continue with student instruction. We expect more guidance from OSDE later this week on a distance learning framework, which will include both online resources and physical instructional materials.

To be blunt, the end of this school year isn't going to look like any other that we have ever seen. I've made a mental list of school traditions, events, and activities that we will be missing, and it is heartbreaking for all of us. The loss of these rites of passage, however, pales in comparison to the significance of the moment before us and the health risk to the public if we fail to act. I have seen scientific estimates of the potential human toll and have no doubt that what we are doing is necessary.

We know that you will have a number of questions and concerns over the next few weeks, and we will do our best to answer those. Our top priority during this time is following the lead of local, state, and national officials and acting in the best interest of public safety. The Mid-Del leadership team is working diligently to stay abreast of the most recent developments through crucial meetings with our state and local officials regarding the best advice for the health and safety of our students. As we develop plans for this complex and unique situation, we will make every effort to keep our students, their families, our staff, and the public well-informed.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remains our highest priority. We take the threat of this virus very seriously. If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or have symptoms, immediately self-quarantine and contact the Oklahoma County Health Department Hotline at 1(877)215-8336 and your family physician.

Thank you for your continued help in keeping our community healthy and safe.