



MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Maynard School Community:

The members of the Maynard School Committee wanted to reach out to you all in this unprecedented time in which we find ourselves. First and foremost, we hope that you and your families are well and taking good care. We wish you continued strength and shared support, to make it through each day of this crisis in the best way possible until we find ourselves on the other side.

As you know, Massachusetts schools are now closed at least until May 4th. Maynard Public Schools are doing their very best under ever-evolving circumstances, under the dedicated leadership of Mary Jane Rickson, Interim Superintendent. Her weekly community updates can be found [here](#).

You may have seen that our next School Committee meeting will take place as a *remote* meeting on Monday, April 6th, 2020, at 7 pm. School Committee operations must also comply with necessary social distancing prevention measures around COVID-19. For all town boards, this means only conducting remote meetings, per the Governor's March 12th "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law". In turn, school committees must provide "adequate, alternative means of public access" to remote meetings. **Details for remote public access are outlined within our posted meeting agenda [here](#).**

At this time, meetings will be scheduled for essential business only. Right now, this primarily includes oversight of budget, any necessary policy changes, and collective bargaining agreements. Beyond our meetings, school and town leadership are communicating regularly to cross-share further information as it unfolds, most notably related to budget implications for FY20 and FY21. We will continue to share critical information as it unfolds. We are also sharing District information almost daily with our incoming Superintendent Brian Haas.

We humbly appreciate the efforts of families and Maynard Public School employees at all levels, adapting under such trying circumstances. Among the many concerns facing public school systems, we must ensure we are meeting the needs of all students. In the interests of equity, we must continue to look out for our most vulnerable populations, including individualized instruction for students with disabilities, nutrition, and support for students in need, and appropriately translated messaging for non-English speaking populations.

We each play a role that matters, and we are all in this together. Our community's efforts amidst such personal and professional upheaval are laudable and inspiring. We are deeply committed to helping see our schools and our community through this, in partnership with school leadership, and we remain hopeful.

Take Care,

Bethlyn Houlihan, Natasha Rivera, Mary Brannelly, Maro Hogan, and Lydia Clancy
The Maynard School Committee