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May 2, 2020

Dear New Paltz Parents and Guardians,

In yesterday's wide-ranging Executive Order, Governor Cuomo extended our school closure through to the end of this academic year. Additionally, he set June 9<sup>th</sup> for the District's school board and budget elections. These will be conducted through the mail via absentee ballots.

During his morning press conference, the Governor urged school districts to move forward with planning for re-opening, presumably in the fall. He acknowledged that many complex questions around re-opening will have to be answered. To cite just one obvious example, how can social distancing become a central feature of bricks and mortar schooling? A further planning challenge stems from the moving target of the several public health and community scenarios that might be in place four months from now. It will be important to take the lessons we have learned from Remote Learning and apply them to the re-design of schooling that is unavoidable.

Much remains to be accomplished in the coming weeks including honoring the achievements of our high school seniors --- the NPHS Class of '20. Dr. Fernandez, his Grad Team, and the PTSA have rolled up their sleeves and are assembling a menu of fitting celebratory events. We can anticipate a rousing send-off.

Sincerely,

*Bernard Josefsberg*