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March 12, 2020

## **Board of Trustees**

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## Superintendent Andrée Grey, Ed.D.

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Joseph Dougherty Business Services Dear EUSD Families,

Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we work with local health officials to ensure the safety of our students, staff and community.

Late last night, officials from the CA Department of Public Health released new guidance that includes the following:

• Large gatherings that include 250 people or more should be postponed or canceled. This guidance, however, does not apply to activities such as attendance at school, work, or essential services.

At this time, our schools are open and operational. Although some local colleges and universities have moved to close their campuses, we will continue to follow guidance set forth by public health experts. At this time, schools will remain open. However, if at any time local or state officials determine otherwise we will act immediately. Our charge under state law is to stay open as long as our site remains safe for students and staff. As a school district, in addition to our ongoing conversations with public health, we are considering factors such as food insecurity among our students, access to the internet or resources for alternative learning methods, and the impacts for students whose families cannot stay home with them. For a large number of our students, the safest place for them to be is in school.

• Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of 6 feet per person should be postponed or canceled.

Based on this guidance, as of today, Thursday, March 12, 2020, and at least through the end of March 2020, the Encinitas Union School District is immediately suspending all large gatherings that include 250 people or more. We will determine at a future date whether or not any of the suspended events can be rescheduled. We will also determine at a future date whether or not we will extend this guidance into the month of April.

Principals are being directed to suspend all large or non-essential meetings and gatherings, including field trips, school related events and assemblies. Regular classroom type activities, such as visits to Farm Lab will be continuing as planned. Please be on the lookout for communication from your principal with updates about specific events.

In addition, beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, Encinitas Union School District is implementing visitor and volunteer restrictions. While we greatly appreciate parent and community volunteers, at this time visitors and volunteers will be restricted on campus. Out of an abundance of caution, this includes volunteers and parents entering campus. We will re-evaluate this plan following Spring Break.

This includes Parent-Teacher Conferences. There will be no in-person conferences. Instead, conferences will be done via phone or students will bring home information to share as a student-led conference.

We thank you for your continued support as we work through issues related to the COVID-19 situation. We know that the cancellation of events will be terribly disappointing for students, parents, and family members. We will discuss at a future date whether or not some events can be rescheduled.

We understand the value of learning and the powerful engagement and interaction that our students and teachers enjoy each day. We also recognize that this current health situation is changing rapidly and we are taking extraordinary and temporary measures to support the well-being of our community. Thank you again for your understanding as we make adjustments and preparations to protect our students and staff.

Please know that we will continue to stay in touch with you throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Andree Grey, Ed.D. Superintendent

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