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POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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March 12, 2020

Assemblyman Thomas J. Abinanti
Assembly District 92
303 South Broadway
Suite 229
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Assemblyman Abinanti:

On behalf of the Pocantico Hills Board of Education, I am urgently writing to ask you to support an immediate NYS-mandated closure of all Westchester County school districts to mitigate the exponential spread of COVID-19. As you know, the Director General of the World Health Organization has declared the contagion of COVID-19 a global Pandemic, as known cases have increased thirteen-fold in the last two weeks alone outside of China, exceeding 133,000 known cases globally. In NYS, there are 328 known cases with Westchester County at the epicenter of the concern with 147. Each day the cases compound.

As communities around the country and world grapple with an adequate response, it is clear one of the most powerful tools at our collective disposal to curtail the spread of this disease is "social distancing." But for this strategy to be truly effective, we must all do our part. A county-wide school closure will buy government, our communities, and healthcare systems precious time to coordinate an adequate overall response.

We expect NYS leadership to be lucid and decisive at a time like this. Each passing day without sufficient broad-based action on this issue risks a situation quickly spiraling out of control.

The Pocantico Hills Board of Education awaits your voice and action on this urgent issue.

Respectfully,

Alfred A. Pacile
Board President, Pocantico Hills CSD