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December 21, 2020

Dear Crossroads School Parents, Family Members and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that an individual at Crossroads School was identified as having a positive case of COVID-19 over the weekend.

We are coordinating closely with health officials in the Westfield Regional Health Office and following CDC, State, and local guidance to assure the health and safety of our learning community.

Contact tracing was completed and the individuals identified as having been in close contact (Within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or more) on December 14-16, 2020 with the individual who tested positive have already been notified of recommended precautionary follow-up actions.

While a single case of COVID-19 does not require temporary closure of Crossroads School, the significant number of staff required to self-quarantine due to close contact along with a growing list of staff unable to report to work due to other COVID-related reasons has impacted our ability to provide safe, consistent and effective learning environments for students.

For this reason, and in consideration of increased positivity and transmission rates in our area, I have made the difficult decision in consultation with the UCESC Board of Directors to shift Crossroads School to full-time remote learning effective Tuesday, December 21, 2020.

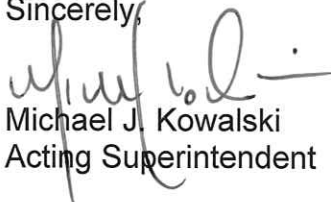
I understand this announcement is disappointing and apologize for the last-minute notification. However, I am confident the decision represents the best interests of health, safety and wellness for students and staff alike during these exceptionally challenging and stressful times.

Please know that we remain fully committed to providing traditional classroom-based instruction. Our teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals, and support staff have put forth extraordinary effort since September and I commend each for their continued dedication. While we need to remain flexible and open to unanticipated change, I am hopeful that we will resume hybrid instruction as originally planned on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and will update you in coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact your school administrators or my office at (908) 233-9317 x 1001 if you have any questions or concerns.

I thank you for your understanding and wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Kowalski
Acting Superintendent