

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

299 PIDGEON HILL ROAD - SUSSEX, NJ 07461-2733
fax 973-875-0904 www.hpregional.org

Seamus Campbell
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
973-875-3170
SCampbell@hpregional.org

Dr. Scott D. Ripley
Superintendent
973-875-7204
sripley@hpregional.org

James Minkewicz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
973-875-7205
JMinkewicz@hpregional.org

May 18, 2020

Dear Seniors and Families,

Please accept my sincerest apology for any lack of clarity in the letter I posted last week. I should have clearly stated: High Point will plan for an on-site, live graduation when restrictions are lifted and it is permitted by State authorities. It was my intention to state that in my prior letter, but I failed to be sufficiently specific and that has caused many to have questions. It has been our hope to conduct a proper on-site ceremony in August.

The purpose of the virtual ceremony is to honor our seniors in June in receiving their diplomas. The reason I communicated the virtual graduation when I did, rather than waiting, was that there is little time to prepare a virtual ceremony that would meet our district and community standards. We needed to proceed immediately, once we were informed on May 9 that we were not able to have a live June graduation ceremony. Please also know that we are under the authority of the state agencies previously mentioned; they have informed us that we are NOT permitted to have a live, on-site graduation until restrictions are lifted. The letter from the State Director of Emergency Management, that I attached to last week's letter, was the only written prohibition that we have received: the DOE will not put it in writing, although they have given their clear direction, irrespective of any statement they may or may not make to the contrary. This is not a local decision, it is a state directive. No Sussex County districts are conducting on-site, live ceremonies in June.

I remain deeply saddened by the loss experienced by all our students and families, especially our seniors; I look forward to a future live ceremony. Please accept this letter and my apology for my former lack of clarity. It is my hope that while this is unwelcome news, it brings clarity to the circumstances we are facing.

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott D. Ripley
Superintendent