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Dear Class of 2020 Graduates and Parents/Guardians,

COVID 19 continues to disrupt our lives! For you, the graduates of 2020, it presents unique challenges. We want to commend you for your perseverance and we appreciate all that you have had to endure. While we are disappointed about this situation, we still want you to know how proud we are of all of you!

The restrictions that have been put in place limit the ability to have a formal graduation celebration of your many achievements as BTPS students. We know that classes will not resume prior to June 1st and have been told that we will not have face to face instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year! This is sad on so many levels. We are so sorry that the traditional graduation celebrations we hoped to have at the end of June will now need to be postponed. We have not received any assurances that the gatherings we would typically see at our graduation ceremonies will be allowed any time soon. That being said, we are still holding out hope that they will be allowed in late August.

Planning for these types of events is a great deal of work on everyone's part. Families, grads and schools go to great lengths to make sure this special day is all that it can be. The uncertainty that we are currently experiencing makes this even more challenging! While we have planned to have formal graduation events in the last week of August, our priority is that we are able to have formal ceremonies at some point! To assist with planning, we are asking schools to work with their graduates and their families to collaboratively plan a formal graduation ceremony. We are asking that the ceremonies take place between August 21st and December 31st, 2020. Of course, this will be dependent upon the direction of the Alberta Medical Officer of Health and what is permitted in terms of large group gatherings. It is our hope that having this flexibility in terms of a timeline will allow sufficient time to have discussions with all those involved to create the best possible graduation experience.

Grads, while we know you are frustrated by the situation and we agree that it is not fair, we are committed to doing everything we can to make it happen! You should be proud of your achievements and we look forward to a time when we can celebrate together.

Take care,

Bob Allen
Superintendent

Lanie Parr
Board Chair