

Woodbridge School District
Superintendent's Update

February 12, 2013

Dear Beecher Road School Families:

As you are well aware, we have experienced a severe blizzard--- one that has been described as historic. Towns throughout Connecticut, including the BOWA districts, have been impacted differently. Woodbridge has been impacted severely with an excess of 34 inches of snow. The severity of the storm has taxed the capacity of many towns, including Woodbridge, to clear all roads in a timely fashion while at the same time helping to prepare for the opening of school. While Woodbridge Town crews have been working diligently around the clock, there have been many challenges, including follow-up icy rain conditions, huge snow drifts and equipment related problems.

I have been working closely with the BOWA Superintendents since last Thursday. Due to this historic storm, the BOWA Superintendents have decided to make their decisions to open or close schools based on the unique needs of each school district. Therefore, the BOWA districts will not be on the same schedule tomorrow. This decision is not precedent setting. **Orange and Bethany will resume school tomorrow, February 13, 2013.** Because of unique conditions described above, **Woodbridge and Amity will not be in session** for students tomorrow. Stay tuned for updates regarding the remainder of the week. The BOWA Superintendents also have decided to honor our previous commitment to families and staff members by sticking to the school board approved calendars. February vacation was scheduled as was the decision to take excess snow days from the April vacation, beginning with Friday, April 19th.

I would like to share the following additional information:

- The First Selectman has met daily with various Town department heads to assess and address Town challenges in establishing normalcy. Representatives include police, fire, public works and roads, UI, Dr. Brady and I.
- As of this morning, the feedback was that all roads are passable. However, many side roads have only one lane. Many of these lanes are extremely narrow. At this time, school busses will have a difficult time navigating these roads. High snow drifts also present safety problems for children waiting for busses. Bus travel, bus stops, and walkers are areas of concern that we are monitoring.
- The BRS entrance way and parking lots, both north and south, are in the process of being cleared of snow. Since Town trucks were unable to service BRS for days, we have contracted with private vendors to do snow removal.
- The facilities director and the custodial staff have been working diligently to remove snow from entrance and exit doors as well as clearing sidewalks and pathways. There are over 100 doors that must be cleared of snow drifts, many of which are 6' or higher.
- The roof has been checked and will continue to be checked throughout the week. Roof drains have been cleared. Snow removal from strategic areas of the roof is taking place.

We extend special thanks to Greg Kula, our Facilities Director, who came in over the weekend to help us assess the situation at BRS, and implement actions steps as quickly as possible. We are also grateful to our custodial team for their dedicated service.

The cancelling of multiple school days is unfortunate and frustrating, but is necessary to ensure that students, staff and our school community are safe. Your patience is very much appreciated.

My hope is that you and all BRS families have been safe during this severe storm, and that you remain safe during the aftermath of the storm as well.

I will continue to share my updates with you through email and/or Instant Alert.

Best wishes to all, especially our children!

Guy Stella, Superintendent