



Rochelle Park School District

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Dear Rochelle Park School Community Members,

I hope you and your loved ones are well. The middle of February is quickly approaching and, if you haven't noticed, daylight is lasting longer; a sign that spring is on the way.

This letter is sent as a follow up to the mid-year status letter, and my commitment to providing you with regular updates on the repairs to Midland School. I hope you find this to be informative and that it lends some perspective to understanding the circumstances upon the district.

The efforts to mitigate and repair Midland School's first floor continue. The crews have been steadily working. The two days lost to snow days last week did not deter their efforts, and their strong pace is readily apparent. The assessment of damage to the facility and contents is ongoing. Classroom and office contents are in the final stages of being packaged. The contents are being moved to storage pods that have arrived on our property. Some pictures are provided below.

Repairs to the electrical damage, circuit breakers, and transformers are making progress too. The largest transformer, weighing upwards of 1,000 pounds will need special time set aside for installation as this requires a rigging process. The installation will also result in the loss of electrical power to the building for a few days. The timeline for scheduling this sequence is being explored as we keep in mind the need to keep electricity up and running for the workers to repair the building as well as online instructional needs.

Most walls on the first floor have been damaged by the water. The sheetrock or plaster has been cut away and the walls are being prepped for construction repair. The flooring across most of the first floor has been damaged. Some rooms, including the cafeteria, need to have the flooring completely replaced, while others will be stripped and waxed. Before the flooring can be removed and prepped for installation there are tests that must be completed to identify the substances in and beneath the flooring. In addition, air quality testing is being done to further ensure compliance with mandates for health and safety.

By the middle of next week we expect to have an updated timeline on the rebuild construction phase. Please keep in mind that this process is incredibly challenging under typical circumstances. The circumstances of the current pandemic upon facility construction and the required industry workers, equipment, and supplies is even more challenging than the norm.

Looking down the calendar and the extent of work to be done, the administration has been considering options for safely returning students to in person instruction. Some considerations include a change in the hybrid schedule, a change in the bell schedule, split AM/PM sessions, and even exploring educational trailers to be brought to our property for classroom learning. Here too, all considerations have the added layer of meeting more stringent mandated health and safety requirements for the pandemic, including but not limited to physical distancing, air quality, isolation room, ADA compliance, and Department of Education approval for educational facility uses. The parameters and constraints are many, though not deterring us from exploring options.

We remain thankful for having the option of on-line learning. Student attendance is reviewed daily and it has been very positive. The administration visits on-line classes and are able to see that the students and teachers are engaged and making every effort to persevere. Parents continue to partner in the process and the school-to-home connection is valued. While noting parental support, I attended the Midland School PTO meeting this week. The work being done by the PTO continues on, even remotely. Their efforts speak to their motivation, pride, and spirit. While the pandemic and this flood have altered the learning environment it has not altered the interest and responsibility of all members of the school community.

Midland School pride is strong, as it should be. To display some "Midland Pride" the school has started a Twitter account. For those who are interested, look for and follow RP Midland School @MidlandSchool1 on Twitter and help share our pride.

Stay safe, be well, and keep your Midland School pride high.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue DeNobile
Superintendent

