

Good Evening,

I wanted to provide an update to the damage caused to the HS/MS building by Tropical Storm Ida. We have been working throughout the weekend to assess the damage and explore educational options for our students. Here is an update to our current situation:

- **We signed an authorization to work agreement with Insurance Restoration Specialists (IRS).** They started work on Thursday and had pumps brought in to get the water out of the building as quickly as possible. We worked with Rockland Electric and the town to determine we can keep the power on to the building throughout this process. This was critical, because it allowed for the possibility of the internet remaining functional for the elementary schools. All PreK-5 students will have internet access on the first day of school on Thursday morning.
- **The estimated expense for mitigation only is approximately \$1.2 million.** The district does have flood insurance. We are still in the process of working with the adjusters.
- **We received virtual learning approval from the NJDOE for the MS/HS students.** While this is only a temporary measure, it was critical to get approval to start classes for our MS/HS students starting this Thursday morning. The County Superintendent, Lou DeLisio, will be on site with me on Tuesday to inspect the damage and report back to the DOE.
- **I have been actively searching for remote locations for our students.** I have been in contact with many closed parochial schools as well as businesses in our area.
- **It is a priority to have our athletic teams and extracurricular programs back on the outdoor property as soon as possible.** Our students need some immediate sense of normalcy. Since the gym, auxiliary gym, and fields were not damaged, I am optimistic this can happen soon. We just need clearance from the restoration company and insurance company to have students on the property.
- **The Cresskill police will be actively patrolling the area.** We need to maintain a sign-in list of any person that enters and exits the building. Please do not come to the site unless absolutely necessary.
- **We are incredibly appreciative of all the support from parents, Mayor Romeo, the Town Council, Cresskill Fire and Police Departments, and surrounding districts.** We have already come to agreements with other schools to place individual, one-class special education programs. The support has been wonderful.
- **Thank you to all who have reached out asking how the community can help.** We will need as much financial support as possible for replacing internal school items such as desks, chairs, chromebooks, smartboards, textbooks, etc. Once I have communication from the insurance company and restoration company on a timeline, I will provide that information. I ask that you simply stay ready with the continued positive energy.

The Board of Education and I are focused on getting our students back in the classroom as quickly as possible. The Cresskill community has shown resilience through repeated tragedies over the past decade. It seems unfair that our wonderful community should have to experience so many challenges in such a short period of time. However, if any district is ready to face this challenge, it is certainly Cresskill.

I will provide further updates as soon as new information becomes available.

Best,
Michael Burke