

Community Unit School District 200

Administration and School Service Center
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August 29, 2007

Dear District 200 Parents:

I am writing to you to clarify some details related to last Thursday's storm and the dismissal of our students. I would like to share with you where we are in evaluating the decisions related to those events in an effort to make sure that the District maintains clear and open lines of communication at all times.

Since last Thursday afternoon, we have met with District administrative staff and principals, had conversations with city and county government representatives, and repeatedly examined the chronology of what occurred on Thursday afternoon. Our goal was to assess what happened, how it happened, what processes need to be adjusted, changed, corrected or eliminated in our procedures, protocols, and systems. Our prime objective is the safety of your children. In order to meet that objective, we continually strive to obtain the best information possible and the best procedures available.

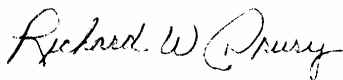
As you are aware, the timing of the storm was critical to decisions that were made. We have paperwork from the National Weather Bureau, the EM-Net system (which is the emergency broadcast system) and have had direct contact with the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management. This District was NOT notified by any of the emergency systems prior to the storm's arrival. In fact, it has been reported to us that most of the surrounding school districts also did not receive any notifications.

We did finally receive notice at 3:15 PM, when the storm was already upon us, that a severe thunderstorm was in DuPage County and to take shelter. By that time, our high schools and middle schools had released students and our elementary students were held. At the time the decision was made to release students, the sky was blue and no notices had been sent to us. The police department contacted their dispatch office and they were not given any information other than an approaching storm was in Maple Park, which is just east of DeKalb. Please understand, if we had those warnings from the Office of Emergency Management, the police department, or the National Weather Service we certainly would have taken different action.

Through conversations over the past few days with these other agencies, we have initiated an examination of the emergency alert equipment, the notification procedures and back-up procedures of these agencies, as well as our own internal protocols. We are also examining the decision making procedures and processes to use in the future. Additionally, we are studying our practices for distributing information to our schools. I guarantee that I will continue to meet with these agencies and will continue to review and revise processes that will assure we meet the prime objective of keeping our students safe.

We recognize that the severity of the storm and the speed at which it traveled were not predictable or anticipated. District 200 administration and staff always work to keep all of our students safe at all times. We apologize if as a result of this situation, we have lost your trust. Please be assured we will work hard to develop and implement renewed processes and procedures to safeguard our students.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Drury, Ed.D.
Superintendent