



Superintendent's Office

Dexter Community Schools
7714 Ann Arbor Street
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January 8, 2015

Dear DCS Parents,

The decision to cancel school due to weather is perhaps one of the most difficult considerations we have to make throughout the school year. Every year, there are days where we are confident the decision was correct. However, there are other days when we close and, in retrospect, we aren't sure that was the correct decision. There are also days when we do not close and, in retrospect, we aren't sure we made the correct decision. Today is one of those days.

Last evening, we began monitoring wind chill forecasts utilizing four different online sources along with local news sources. If the wind chill dips to the negative 20- to 25-degree range, we know it is best to cancel school. At that temperature, the risk to our students standing at bus stops or walking to school greatly outweighs the need to have students in school for the day. All four sources were sharing that wind chill temperatures would be in the -15 degree range in Dexter around bus pickup time today. This did not meet the threshold for an automatic closing of school and announcing it last night.

This morning around 4:15 a.m., we again began monitoring temperature forecasts from the same sources. Each of the sources showed the wind chill between -11 degrees and -18 degrees around bus pickup time. We continued to monitor the temperatures until just after 6:00 a.m. when it appeared to be consistent with the 4:15 a.m. predictions. However, around 6:30 a.m. the forecast changed. Many of the sources were showing a wind chill, in Dexter, of -12 degrees with the wind chill predictions moving to -20 degrees around 7 a.m. At this point it was too late to make a change. The busses were in route to the furthest points of the school district. If we chose to cancel so late, by the time the entire notification process would have been completed, we risked having students waiting at bus stops with no bus in route and possibly parents who have already left for work for the day.

Please be assured that the safety of our students is our primary concern. We would never make a decision to jeopardize our students' safety. We use the best data available to us at the time to make decisions to protect the safety of our students. Today was one of those days where we look back and wish we could go back in time.

Thank you for your continued support and Go Dreadnaughts!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent