

Peru Central

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ACTION TUESDAY NIGHT

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, February 12, 2008**, the school board:

Accepted the following February 2008 reports:

- A. Update on **public reporting** for the 2007-2008 school year;
- B. Monthly **program** reports and **support operations** reports;
- C. Ad-hoc Task Force on **Grading of Student Work** Meeting Notes;
- D. Seventh annual report on mid-year progress toward district goals.

Completed a **second reading and adoption** of various **0000 section** [goals and objectives] and **1000 section** [community relations] policies forwarded by the NYSSBA for school board consideration. Doing so was part of 2007-2008 district goal 2.1: Engage the New York State School Boards Association to assist the governing team with the first comprehensive update to the Peru CSD policy manual since 1991.

Scheduled February 26, 2008 at 7 PM as the public hearing for the March 12, 2008 EXCEL capital project voter referendum reflecting constituent feedback received by the school board and administration since September 2007 regarding campus repairs and improvements identified as priorities during the 2005-2006 state-mandated comprehensive review of buildings conditions.

Authorized the Superintendent of Schools [or designee in his absence] **to employ a two-hour delay option for start of classes**, if particular safety, weather and/or travel conditions are viewed by the Superintendent of Schools as warranting such an extraordinary delay of start of classes.

Participated in a presentation/briefing from Cheryl Pray, grades 6-12 mathematics teacher team coordinator. Cheryl was assisted by faculty member Mary Clacker. Those two engaged the governing team with the new generation of handheld computers now deployed on campus at the middle and high schools, associated with the December 2006 state mandate regarding school district purchase of graphing calculators.

Attended to various **contractual and personnel business** as is customary at regular meetings.

Received the January 8, 2008 **Superintendent's Report** [a copy is attached].

FEBRUARY 14, 2008


FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS – HOW THE DECISION IS MADE

Various regional newspapers across the nation's snow-prone states these past few weeks have featured stories on how schools get 'snow days', and why it's often a 'tough call'. First off, I appreciate the Peru Central School Board's consideration this month to offer an additional option for our school district that's already in place in many Champlain Valley school districts: A delayed opening option. Such an option is particularly useful during late winter/early spring when the forecast is for much better weather and road conditions by 9 AM. Having such an option available can be very helpful, from time to time, when weather and road conditions preclude having school buses on the road at 6 AM.

I'm aware the decision regarding whether or not to have school has impact on children, district employees, guardians, child care providers and other area employers.

How's the decision of whether or not to close school made?

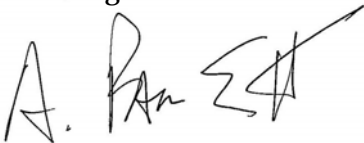
As reported several years ago in the Press-Republican within their editorial, I use the best available early hours information from the National Weather Service, NOAA and regional media, along with local road conditions. I contact multiple other area agencies, often including State Department of Transportation, State Police, Clinton County Emergency Services. Further, I consult with key others, such as our transportation services supervisor and neighboring school superintendents. After our transportation supervisor and I talk very early in the morning, he and I continue consulting with others. By some point between 5 AM or 5:40 AM, he and I have a final conversation, and I make the decision as to whether or not to launch campus operations and bus runs that day.

If my decision is to close our schools, media contact is initiated immediately. Generally, if road conditions are identified as suitable for travel, we have a day of school. My **key considerations** are:

- Student and staff safety;
- Whether the weather conditions or road conditions are deteriorating and/or likely to improve;
- The forecasted weather conditions for mid-afternoon, during our scheduled dismissal time.

If students are already at school or on their way to school via school buses, my general practice is to maintain our regular schedule, so parents can plan ahead. As the two most recent storms demonstrated, though, there are exceptions, when weather and road conditions change substantially and/or forecasts are updated.

My decision making process is always focused on assessing the information from the various sources outlined above, with the focus on student and staff safety. Some days, like Thursday, February 7th, it's an easier decision than on other days, such as Friday, February 1st when what as forecasted was very different than what we experienced, in regard to weather and road conditions. I acknowledge it is a major disruption for many hundreds of students, staff and adults when school is cancelled. And yet, I close school whenever doing so appears warranted, given the best information available to me in the early morning hours.



Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools