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Carrie Thibodeaux, Board President
Melissa Kinzler, Board Vice President
Kathy Madigan, Board Director
JoAnn Tracy, Board Director
Rick Slaughter, Board Director

Dear Staff,

Below is information that I hope you will find helpful in understanding how we make decisions to delay or cancel school and how you can access and be notified about this information.

Around 3:30 a.m. on these wintry days, Megan Gentili, our Transportation Supervisor, and I will begin to monitor road conditions. Our District boundaries encompass 45 square miles. Due to the large geographic area of our District boundaries, our monitoring areas also need to include Graham and Bonney Lake which can have much different weather conditions than downtown Orting.

In determining decisions regarding school delays or closures, we use many indicators including road conditions for buses and staff/student drivers, amount of snow or ice, outside temperatures and weather forecast and changing weather conditions.

It is not uncommon to have delays in the early winter with little snow if the temperature is below freezing and not expected to raise much above freezing during the day. We find that road conditions for our buses are quite treacherous in these icy conditions. In late winter, the converse could be true. We could have several inches of wet snow, but the temperature is above freezing, making roads passable. We make the very best decision each time we are faced with winter weather conditions.

Our goal for determining school delay or closure status is 5:30 a.m. Sometimes this is difficult when snow does not begin to fall until after 6:00 a.m. We want to clearly communicate how you can and will receive this information from us.

- <http://flashalert.net>: You can go to this website and sign up to have any school delay or closure alert come to your email address. You will receive this information as soon as I officially *push the button* on my computer!
- We will place the delay or closure announcement on our District website at www.ortingschools.org as well as our Facebook page. If our District is running emergency bus routes, you can find this information on our website and Facebook as well.
- Each employee will receive a phone call via School Messenger around 5:30 a.m. if a decision has been reached regarding a delay or school closure. As mentioned earlier, sometimes the weather conditions shift after 5:30 a.m. and, therefore, a decision will be made at the earliest time possible.
- Radio and television stations will receive our information as soon as I *push the button* on my computer. There are times you might hear an announcement on the television or radio before your call around 5:30 a.m. They are tracking many school districts and a few times have reported information different from what we have decided. Please use one of the above sources if you receive contradictory information.

Our goal is to have school on scheduled days if road conditions are safe for our buses, staff and student drivers. I hope this is a document that you find helpful.

In partnership with you,

William (Ed) Hatzenbeler
Superintendent

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