

November 3, 2016

An open message to update all community members regarding Meath Park Public School fire:

As you know, Meath Park Public School suffered a fire Thursday, October 20th, 2016 that caused extensive damage to a canteen/gym/changeroom area of the school. The smoke and water used to extinguish the fire also made its way throughout the building causing more damage. Staff and students responded quickly and carefully to ensure that everyone evacuated safely and then several fire departments worked to extinguish the fire.

Soon after the fire, Meath Park staff began planning to ensure students would be able to resume learning as soon as possible. On October 26th, Spruce Home Public School staff welcomed the Meath Park grade K-4 students and Carlton Comprehensive Public School did the same for grade 5-12 students. The extra distance travelled by bus has been a challenge for many, but students and parents have been patient and resilient, despite the longer bus rides.

The timeline for the cleanup process is still uncertain. We had hoped students would be able to return to Meath Park Public School after the November break. We now know that the timeline has been extended. Below is a summary of the damage and the progress on the clean-up and restoration.

- There have been no unexpected conditions encountered in the cleaning, but the cleaning of the various materials and equipment is taking substantial time to do well. Replacement of ceiling tiles and cleaning of the area above them is time consuming.
- The far wing of the school (library, shop and area) is essentially cleaned up.
- The elementary wing is in progress expected to be mostly complete by early next week.
- The high school corridor and classrooms will likely be completed after the elementary wing.
- The main office requires replacement of carpet and some drywall and requires more restoration. It will be several weeks until it is complete.
- The gym is structurally sound, as confirmed by engineering reports, but it will require replacement of the floor, repair to a small portion of the roof, replacement of the heating system and other restoration work. It will be months before it is usable.
- One change room and the canteen will need to be demolished and rebuilt, while the other change room will be gutted and reconstructed.
- Air quality is being measured now and further testing will be taken to confirm safety before resuming classes.

Given the extent of the damage, and the need to ensure safety of students during the restoration, students and staff will not be able to return to Meath Park Public School possibly until late November or

early December. Even this timeline is not certain, so we will provide a further update when more information is available.

The SRPSD Board of Education appreciates the extraordinary efforts of staff, students, and families to respond to this difficult situation and make it as positive as possible. We are dedicated to provide *Excellence for Every Learner* and are working to minimize disruption to learning this fire has created. Together with the support of students, parents and the community we will continue to move forward to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Bratvold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Robert Bratvold
Director of Education