



September 23, 2008

Dear Key Communicator:

This morning all of our schools were operating with electrical power everywhere for the first "morning" since Saturday, September 13. We do have two schools under a "boil water" directive, but we have shut off water supply lines to our sinks and our water fountains. The students are being provided bottle water and box lunches until we receive the "A-OK" on the water supply. The restrooms are operational and students and staff members are adapting well. Student transportation was handled effectively this morning, regardless of the fact that some traffic lights are still not operational. I visited five campuses this morning and student attendance was very good; staff attendance was at or near the 100 percent mark, even though we have staff members who remain without power at home.

I sent the following MMN to our staff this week and wanted to share it with you. Thank you for your support and your patience during this very difficult time.

David



September 22, 2008

Since Friday, September 12, we have all been focused on either Hurricane Ike or recovery from the damages caused by the massive storm. There are so many people in our district who are still dealing with the devastation and life-altering issues associated with "Ike." The members of our security, facilities, operations, maintenance and technology teams have been ever-present and immensely effective in accomplishing impossible tasks during the past week. The ISC administrative team has been on-site and in meetings for most of the week, working collaborative to develop a plan for the "reunification" of our district's students and employees in a safe and secure environment. As you can imagine, there is not a plan that will meet the needs and/or expectations of all of our students and all of staff members, the damage from the hurricane was far too

pervasive and truly multi-faceted; however, we do have a plan that meets the needs of the majority of the members of the CFISD community. Of course, we have had some very passionate criticism from individuals who had a better idea with a lot less information. That is to be expected. Situations such as this bring out the very best in most people and the very worst in some.

I don't want to try to name all of the people who have committed so much time and energy to this effort, but the department personnel and supervisors that were noted earlier deserve "star status." Everyone added value and we received many offers for help from district employees; who would expect less in CFISD.

One of the major issues that seems to be the most difficult to understand is that many of our employees still do not have power in their homes and some don't have water. Not all of our employees live in CFISD and we must have our employees on site when the students return. For that reason, we are asking all employees to return to work on Monday with the anticipation that our students will return to class on Tuesday. There may be some students who will not be able to attend classes on Tuesday, due to power outages on their campuses or in their homes. We will address that issue on Monday and utilize our ENS (telephonic notification system) to get that information to our parents.

We have maintained constant contact with officials from Harris County, Houston, Region IV and the TEA throughout the past week and we will continue to work with those entities to deal with the aftermath of Ike. We do not have information regarding lost instructional time. When any additional information is determined, I will make sure that our staff members, parents and community members are made aware of our on-going plans.

I have been working closely with many CFISD personnel during the past week and I cannot express in words how appreciative I am for the discussions, decisions, advice, planning, research and commitment to get CFISD "up and running." There were also hundreds, more than 600, employees who were working across the district who I did not see every day. For the first few days of the week, they walked the facilities, assessed damages, cleaned up the debris, repaired damages and filed reports while holding a flashlight in their hands; there was no power where many of them were working. Many used temporary generators to provide the power necessary for the work that had to be done. All of the CFISD personnel, administrators included, worked 12-18 hours each day to accomplish the improbable in an impossibly short timeframe. Those who will criticize the decisions that were made in CFISD will never have a first-hand view of what was accomplished and the data that had to be reviewed in a little more than one week. I am privileged to work with the most committed staff in Texas; it was all work, all for one purpose, and no complaining, even though there was a great deal to complain about.

I want to thank all of you who participated in our recovery efforts. I want to thank all of you who volunteered to help with our efforts. And, I want to thank those of you who provided support with your emailed thoughts and prayers (when the email began

working). It has taken everyone to get to this point and we still have much to do. However, this is CFISD and together, we will get that done, too!.

David

P.S. The following is a summary of our Response to Hurricane Ike

After Hurricane Ike hit early Saturday morning, a scheduled 6 p.m. conference call to the district's emergency team was held. At that time, it was reported that we had no power on campuses and support facilities. When Houston became an imminent target for the hurricane, the security department deployed staff to protect facilities that are vulnerable to public access. The security department provided 24/7 monitoring and patrol of our facility assets.

By 9 a.m. Sunday when an emergency meeting of the Board was called, 10% of our campuses and facilities had power. At that time facilities, operations, technology teams had completed an initial assessment. Damage included roofs; awnings; water in specific areas such as libraries, classrooms, portables, and gyms; and trees and fences. A press release was sent to media, information was posted on the website, an interview with KTRH was conducted and a message went out to parents and staff canceling school Monday through Wednesday.

A command center was established, as previously planned, at the Security Department from which both the assessment and restoration teams and administrative teams worked the entire week. The overriding critical challenges were lack of power, structural and mechanical damage caused by wind and water, availability of staff, water quality issues and reports from over 40 Municipal Utility Districts in CFISD, communication services such as phone and cell, food and general supplies in the district, and inoperable traffic lights. The 20+-member emergency team, representing over 600 employees and contractors, were on-call around the clock, and met each day to report, prioritize and address issues.

By Monday about 40% of our schools and facilities had power. Power enabled detailed assessment and more efficient remediation. Campuses and facilities were steadily coming online with power and, in some cases, damage became more obvious.

It was decided early Tuesday that the district should remain closed the entire week. Staff and local media were contacted. Smaller administrative teams were formed to evaluate issues such as make-up days for student and staff, payroll, insurance, and food service and supplies.

By Wednesday, with the support of CenterPoint Energy, power had been restored at all 78 campuses and 18 support facilities, except nine schools and three support facilities (ISC among them). Detailed planning with a focus of schools back in session on Monday was initiated. A meeting with principals on Friday was organized, phone trees put in place to assess staff availability, and issues analyzed and addressed.

At that time, in an effort to keep staff and the community informed a total of five hurricane-related press releases had been sent to 500 local media organizations; four automated calls had been made to parents and/or staff with two more planned; three key communicator emails (one via an alternative service provider) representing a total of about 4,000 emails were launched, interviews with media were scheduled including three live interviews with KTRH, two newspaper interviews, and seven television phone interviews. As is District protocol, continuous information was posted on the district website although the lack of power and internet service was a challenge to the flow of communication.