Dear Dixon Community,

I hope this communication finds you well and not struggling from the effects of Hurricane Florence. I know I have been relatively quiet about the state of our school, and quite honestly I’ve not been exactly clear on what that state is. We have sustained heavy damage in our cafeteria, gym and classrooms surrounding it. We have three teachers that have lost almost everything in their rooms (2nd grade) and some have had to damage at all. Most of the main building is in pretty good shape with some leaks in the roof causing air quality concerns to staff and students.

I will be brief. In light of our very late return date for students (November 5) we have established some learning pop-up sites on our own in each grade level. Hopefully your classroom teacher has had a chance to talk to you about that opportunity for your child. Although no plan is perfect, we felt a deep commitment to begin serving students in some academic capacity well before three weeks have passed. Our local churches and community buildings have been gracious partners and instrumental in our being able to deliver instruction to our students.

Our students’ safety is our top concern. Please be assured that Onslow County Schools and the nationally certified environmental hygienist that has been retained will NOT allow students to come back to school if the air quality is the least bit compromised. Although aesthetically we may have a few areas of concern when they come back, the air quality will not be one of them.

We have had many, many offers of donations and supplies to get DES back into pre-Florence shape. We will gladly accept all donations but what appears to be damaged the most were second grade classroom libraries and math kits. These items are not easily replaced by the general public so if you are interested in helping us replace these items a financial donation would be so welcomed at this point. We are also always in need of plain and colored copy paper. We have accepted over $1,000 in gift cards as well from large chains to help affected teachers replace personal items lost in the storm.

One last note. I was invited to attend the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference this year. The conference will be in Nashville and everything has been paid for and is not refundable at this late date. The conference unfortunately begins on November 2 and runs through the 6th. I wanted all parents aware of why I will not be there to greet students when they return on November 5th. I do have two top notch assistant principals who will be more than capable of ‘running the show’ for two days while I am gone.

Onslow has over 400 displaced students and 96 staff members. They are all in our thoughts and prayers during this time of rebuilding our community. If I can be of any assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Glenn Reed

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