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Dear Cherry Hill Community,

Many parents and family members contacted the district today regarding the decision making process to open our schools on a delayed opening schedule. I have heard from some parents and students who are frustrated by the process and the ultimate decision that was made.

The district follows a process (<http://www.chclc.org/our-district/school-closing-information>) in evaluating the anticipated timing and severity of any significant weather event, and its projected outcome, the condition and accessibility of our schools, and the impact on our students and staff. When all of this information was considered, and we could confirm with our transportation providers a change in the time for buses, the decision was made to open our schools on a delayed schedule.

As a district, we endeavor to consider every student and staff member when making weather-related decisions which impact the school day. We consider the vulnerability of all of our students and our staff members, and the impact on families – whose lives encompass a wide variety of circumstances – when we reach our final decision. These decisions are never made lightly.

I know there are some who disagree with the decision to open our schools on a delayed schedule today. I understand the perspectives that have been shared with me, and I respect a parent's individual decision to keep a child home from school. When I make the final decision on behalf of the district, it is done with the consideration of all of our students and the impact on our educational community as a whole.

We are grateful on a daily basis for our dedicated faculty and staff for their work with, and on behalf of, our students. On days like today, we are especially grateful and thankful for each of them. I stopped by many of our schools yesterday afternoon and I visited all nineteen of our schools before 8:30 am, this morning, to personally check on the conditions of the grounds. On behalf of our students, I would like to thank the members of our buildings and grounds staff, our custodians and cleaners, the Cherry Hill Township Public Works Department, and the Camden County Department of Public Works for their committed service to ensuring that our schools and the roads leading to them were ready for us today. I encourage you to thank these folks when you see them as well.

Regards,

Dr. Joseph Meloche
Superintendent