



Lansingburgh Central School District

District Office

55 New Turnpike Rd • Troy, NY 12182

Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.

Superintendent

(518) 233-6850

November 24, 2020

Lansingburgh School Community,

I know all of you have anxiously been awaiting the announcement of a date for reopening Rensselaer Park Elementary School. After discussing with our Board of Education and Administrative Team over the past week, I have decided that we will not be able to reopen the building in December and will try again in January.

This decision was not made lightly and it was due in part to the uncertainty that exists both financially and for safety reasons. Fiscally, we did not receive the funding that we were expecting, both in a reduced amount of Foundation Aid in our November payment and an unanticipated loss of Transportation Aid that is carried over from last year.

In regards to the health and safety of our students and staff, I am incredibly concerned about the recent spike in COVID positive cases in our community. Just at Turnpike Elementary School alone, we went from not having a single case in nearly 10 weeks to a complete shutdown of the building in just over a week. This includes nearly the entire district office as well.

Due to this outbreak, people on quarantine, even if not exhibiting any symptoms, have needed to drastically change their plans for Thanksgiving. If the same were to happen again in early to mid December, as anticipated, this would have a dramatic effect on how families gather during the holiday season.

Our plan for now is to wait until January to determine if the spread of this disease has subsided to the point where we can safely reopen RPES. Governor Cuomo is also expected to provide school districts with guidance that will detail our financial outlook for the rest of the school year and next year's budget. We are also hopeful that additional federal stimulus funding will come in the near future.

We will continue to monitor both our budgetary situation and COVID exposure levels, in hopes of exploring opening our remaining two buildings as well.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind our families to continue to adhere to all of the safety guidelines recommended by the CDC. It is times like this that remind us all what we truly need to be thankful for.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Abitabile'.

Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.

LCSD Superintendent