Information and FAQ's Regarding Emergency Closures and Delayed Openings

Who decides to close, delay, or dismiss early?

The Superintendent makes the final call to close or adjust the day.

How does the Superintendent make the decision?

The day before potential adverse weather, the Superintendent discusses options with the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Supervisor of Transportation, Rockaway Township DPW, Rockaway Police Department, and Superintendents from surrounding districts. We consult two local weather subscriptions and then plan for the next day. A decision made the night before is reassessed in the morning. We try to make the call by 6:00 AM or earlier.

What factors go into determining a delay or closure?

The time the storm arrives and its duration are important considerations, as well as the type of precipitation, such as ice. Anticipated road conditions during the storm and at the time of drop-off and pick-up are also considered. It may be necessary to call for a full closure if conditions worsen. If so, information will be broadcast as soon as possible. We also consider the time it takes to clear and salt school walkways, parking lots, and driveways.

How will I learn of the decision?

We use several methods of communication:

- o Social Media: Instagram: @ROCKAWAYSUPER
- o https://www.rocktwp.net/
- o Thrillshare: email, text, and voicemail

How is YMCA before/after care affected by closures and delays?

Typically, when there is a delay, before-care is cancelled. When there is an early dismissal, after-care is cancelled. When school is closed, before and after-care are cancelled.

We rely heavily on weather forecasting to inform our decisions. Student and staff safety are always our primary concern. Once the students are in the buildings, we will keep them for the full day, notwithstanding an emergency.

Delayed Opening/Early Dismissal Schedules

- *Late Buses* – During the winter months, traffic and icy road conditions may delay school buses on their routes. While students may have to wait at a bus stop for several minutes, they should be instructed to return home or go to a designated neighbor's house if the bus has not arrived within twenty minutes. If your child returns home and you have not heard an emergency announcement, call the Transportation Department at: 973-627-3377.
- *Two-Hour Delayed Opening* – When early morning road conditions are severe enough to warrant a delayed school opening, each child's bus pickup time and school starting time are delayed two hours from

the regular schedule for their respective school. Students should report to bus stops two hours later than their regular schedule. Buses may arrive later due to road conditions.

- *Early Closing* – Should it become necessary to close school before the regular dismissal time, when school is already in session, every effort will be made to have the announcement made by 10:45 a.m. The district will use the previously listed communication methods.

Parents are urged to make arrangements if they are not available during the day. Please make sure the school office has the correct phone number, address, and bus stop for your emergency contact. It would also be helpful for you to discuss an emergency plan with your child for early dismissal days.

The following links pertain to school schedules:
Copeland Middle School

Birchwood Elementary School

Catherine A. Dwyer Elementary School

Stony Brook Elementary School

Katharine D. Malone Elementary School

Dennis B. O'Brien Elementary School

As always, please contact me with your suggestions and/or comments at: rcorbett@rocktwp.net.