Robert Kahler
Superintendent of Schools
rkahler@aos98schools.org
207.633.2874

Julianne Hansbury
Director of Special Services
Jhansbury@aos98schools.org
207.633.2874

51 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
AOS98SCHOOLS.ORG

To: BRES family and friends

Re: Update on BRES Fire Panel and additional safety measures

25 September 2026,

On 9/2/26 as you are aware the peninsula experienced two power surges. The power surges affected both the fire panel and the PDK controller (door card swipe system), at BRES. While the firm alarm remains armed, out of an abundance of caution we felt it necessary to take the following steps before deciding on a potential school closure.

Our director of facilities contacted the Fire Marshal's office and spoke with Inspection Supervisor Scott Cyr. We explained our current situation, and he advised me we could stay open with a fire watch person, he also forwarded us information on how to conduct a fire watch, of which we have implemented. Our local Fire Chief Glenn Tilton agreed with the Fire Marshals' advice, and we immediately informed our school boards of our plans to ensure students' safety moving forward.

Our fire watch "subs" have all been fingerprinted and have had a successful background check. We have three shifts of four hours, and fire watch is their only job so our staff can focus one hundred percent of their attention on our students and fire watch has one hundred percent of their attention on their job. We will continue the fire watch until the new fire panel is installed and operating as it should.

We signed off with Minuteman Security on 9/4/26 to replace the fire panel and other associated devices, smoke detectors and pull-stations most of which are original to the building construction. We've consulted with engineers and our onsite project manager and our architects to ensure the new fire panel was robust enough to handle both the existing building and the planned addition. The swipe card system has been working properly for the past two weeks but we are continuing to evaluate whether or not an update is needed.

We are still waiting on some parts, and the planned date of the installation for the new fire panel begins on Monday October 5, sooner if everything becomes available.

I want to thank those of you who reached out with questions and concerns. The safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. Please reach out if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Kahler
Superintendent of Schools, AOS 98