



Fieldcrest C.U.S.D. #6

1 Dornbush Drive Minonk, IL 61760

Phone: 309.432.2177

Fax: 309.432.3377

www.unit6.org

Dr. Daniel L. Oakley
Superintendent

February 6, 2019

As many staff, students, and parents are already aware, we are working on issues and concerns related to the roof and upper north wall of the old Wenona High School building. This letter is written to address where the project stands, as well as a couple of rumors which currently are circulating the community. We take the safety of our students and staff as a highest priority in the process we are currently undertaking.

The issues on the Wenona roof and wall date back to 2014. At that time, the south parapet and wythes were broken loose from the rest of the building in a high windstorm, literally shaken from their place as the roof membrane loosened and flapped in the wind. The roofing company which did the repair on the roof in 2014 also noted the north wall had a small lean in it, approximately 3 inches, which at the time was a negligible amount.

The 10-year Health Life Safety conducted in 2016 noted concerns with the south and east walls of the building. Specifically, there were concerns noted regarding the outward movement of these walls. These are listed in the 2016 HLS survey, and would have to be remedied by replacement of those walls in part or in whole. During a building tour in 2017, the architect in charge of that portion of the survey was specifically asked if this issue was an immediate danger for students, and the architect responded that it was not, but could become one, and if so could require the old three-story high school building to be shut down. He emphasized, though, that the issues were not there yet.

In December 2018, significant leakage began into the third floor of the building. The district called in a roofing company to investigate and fix the issue. The company did patch work on the roof, but noted concerns about the north wall. They indicated a significant lean inward at the top of the wall, which physically puts outward pressure further down the wall. The company felt enough concerned to recommend further investigation.

As a result of this recommendation, our architectural firm sent out an engineer to review what was happening. The result of that visit included concern about an outward fall risk of brick onto the roof of the small gym with a recommendation to close the small gym in order to insure safety of anyone who might otherwise be in the gym. The district followed this recommendation. A second recommendation was made to have an engineering field study done in order to determine what was happening with the walls and roof on the old building. The district agreed and began the necessary steps to accomplishing this task.

Fieldcrest High School, 1 Dornbush Drive, Minonk IL 61760

Fieldcrest Middle School, 192 West Elm Street, Wenona IL 61377

Fieldcrest Intermediate School, 306 North Maple Street, Toluca IL 61369

Fieldcrest Primary School, 523 North Johnson Street, Minonk IL 61760

309-432-2529

815-853-4331

815-452-2318

309-432-2838

In the meantime, the leak into the third floor continued, as the work done did not stop the flow. Administration moved a classroom at that time due to the leak, and the district brought in a masonry company to review the masonry concerns. The company noted the buckling in the wall and were concerned about the structural integrity of the wall in relationship to the roof, and recommended moving students off the third floor. This step, by the way, is a step which must be taken anyway in order for the engineering field study to be accomplished. Administration began taking steps to accomplish this.

The roofing company and the masonry company conferred on the issues. They agreed there were concerns about walls being pulled in, and noted this to Ron Kreiser.

As a result of all of these concerns, out of an abundance of caution, Administration decided it was best to remove all students and staff from the old building. There has been NO condemnation of the building, nor any direction or recommendation from any architect, engineers, or anyone else to take this step, beyond what was necessary for third floor. This step is being taken by administration out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our students and staff until we know what is happening structurally with the building. Once that determination was made, plans began immediately for how that could be accomplished, and necessary actions were initiated.

The task of moving classrooms has now been completed. Our buildings and grounds staff can now begin the process of removing interior ceiling as required by the engineering field study in order for roof and wall structure to be examined directly.

The engineering field study will not be completed in short order. There is a necessity to do asbestos testing in the areas in which work will occur, with the potential for asbestos abatement in addition to ceiling removal. The engineering field study will occur both inside and outside, which means weather must be conducive to completing the work. As we all know, our current weather and forecasts are not conducive to much exterior work at this time, so the weather will have to settle somewhat and temperatures be high enough to complete this work. In all likelihood, this will be sometime in February or possibly even March.

In the meantime, we will not be using the old building nor the small gym until such time as we receive clearance post-engineering field study. If we are not given clearance, we will continue with our current plan for placement of students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daniel L Oakley, Superintendent
Fieldcrest CUSD 6
doakley@unit6.org

Fieldcrest High School, 1 Dornbush Drive, Minonk IL 61760	309-432-2529
Fieldcrest Middle School, 192 West Elm Street, Wenona IL 61377	815-853-4331
Fieldcrest Intermediate School, 306 North Maple Street, Toluca IL 61369	815-452-2318
Fieldcrest Primary School, 523 North Johnson Street, Minonk IL 61760	309-432-2838