Hello Parents,

Winter is in full swing. I wanted to provide you with some school-closing information. Our number one priority is the safety of our students and staff. When I make a decision regarding closing school, I gather information from our transportation director, the county road commissions and our building administrators. That decision is made as early as possible to give everyone a chance to make necessary arrangements. We use current weather and travel conditions, as well as forecasts. In addition, a few of us drive around the district to make a personal inspection of the roads. However, conditions can change, and what makes sense at 4:30-6:00 a.m. might not make as much sense at 8:00 a.m. I may tend to be a bit more cautious at times, but I hope you understand I do not take this decision lightly.

In extremely cold temperatures school has been cancelled in the past. Many schools use the -20 degree and below temperature as a guide. We will consider the wind chill, the wind speed and the hourly forecast to determine if it is unsafe to have school.

In very rare situations, we may institute a “main roads only” pick up schedule. If we call a “main roads only” situation, we will run altered routes that will allow us to pick up students at specific locations. If that were to happen, we would use School Messenger (our automated system) to alert families before 6:00 a.m. of the change. Again, this would be only in very rare situations.

We respect your right as a parent to make decisions about putting your child on a bus or allowing them to drive to school. Should you decide not to send your child to school due to weather or other safety factors, simply let the school office know and your child will be excused. Like any other excused school absence, they will be provided the opportunity to make up any school work missed.

As a final reminder, School Messenger is the most reliable source in receiving notifications on school-closing announcements. Please ensure your email and telephone numbers are current. To request an update, please contact Ms. Stacey Johnston at sjohnston@pwschools.org or (989) 587-5100, Ext. 5113. In addition to School Messenger, we will also post school-closing information on our website, www.pwschools.org, and on our social media sites.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jeff.wright@pwschools.org or (989) 587-5100, Ext. 5108.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wright, Superintendent