

Coventry Public Schools

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PRESS RELEASE

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WINTER STORMS AND SNOW ACCUMULATION ON COVENTRY SCHOOL ROOFS

(COVENTRY, CT) February 3, 2011 – Given the recent winter storms and snow accumulation, concerns have been raised about the roofs at various Coventry schools. In an effort to provide full information on the status of the roofs, the following steps have been taken, as outlined by the Coventry Public Schools on January 31, 2011:

- Structural engineers have informed us that the minimum roof load per the building code when the roofs were installed was 30 lbs. per square foot. Our Director of Physical Plant and Facilities visited all 4 roofs and his overall assessment is that we are at about half the rated capacity in most areas. Areas that have greater depths than those described below (mostly drifts) are not in the middle of the roof spans and, therefore, are probably not problematic. Detailed information is as follows:
 - **Capt. Nathan Hale and Coventry High Schools:** Vents and other equipment are visible through the field of the roofing structure, and the depth of snow is between 14” -17”; some areas average less than 6” - 8”. The Director believes that the wind has reduced the snow level.
 - **Coventry Grammar School:** the roof appears to have 8” – 10” or less. The maintainers are removing snow from some of the overhangs near exterior doors where little snow melt is taking place. Other than that, CGS looks good; the roof pitch probably helps to keep snow depth down.
 - **G. H. Robertson School:** Snow depths of 8” – 10” or less on the old sections of the building. The new 5th grade wing has slightly more than the old section.

Conversations with Town officials have continued throughout the week. The following action plan was agreed to at a meeting on February 3, 2011 with the following persons in attendance: Paul Noel, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Gregg Blackstone, School Business Manager; Joseph Callahan, Building Official; Todd Penney, Town Engineer; Noel Waite, Fire Marshal; David Petrone, Superintendent Designee and Principal of the Capt. Nathan Hale School; Joseph Carilli, Chief, CVFA; Beth Bauer, Town Finance Director and John Elsesser, Town Manager:

- Work will continue to reduce/remove snow drifts and to keep roof drains open. This may include hiring outside contractors to remove snow in preparation for future storms.
- Continued monitoring and due diligence, including evaluation after each storm.
- Immediate investigation of any unexpected shifts, cracks or unexplained noises.

Student safety is of paramount concern, as is maintaining the integrity of the school facilities. There is no apparent need for immediate concern, but it was agreed to take prudent steps in anticipation of future accumulations.

For additional information please contact Gregg Blackstone, Coventry Public Schools Business Manager, at 860-742-7317 ext. 107.