

# Coventry Public Schools

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## **UPDATE: SNOW ACCUMULATION ON COVENTRY SCHOOL ROOFS**

(Coventry, CT) February 9, 2011 (9:00 AM) - Monitoring of school roofs and buildings has continued over the last week. Significant progress has been made in removing snow, but some snow remains. Due to the past weekend's heavy rain/snow event and concerns with minor cosmetics cracks, Silva Engineering of Willimantic was hired to evaluate all of the schools. At a joint meeting of town and school staff on Tuesday, Mr. Jim Silva expressed that he would be preparing a written report later in the evening confirming that the buildings are structurally safe for occupancy. Mr. Silva also provided guidance on establishing priorities for removing the balance of the snow. He has been retained to continue with a monitoring program.

When snow is removed from the roofs, it has to be moved again away from the buildings to assure open egress to windows and exit doors. A plan is in place to get the perimeters of the buildings cleared. Information from the structural engineer and snow removal staff indicates that exceptional progress has been made and the expected school opening day is Thursday, February 10. Parents and students should be aware that snow removal will continue during the school day and some students may be transferred to alternative instructional spaces, as areas may be closed due to noise and the need to temporarily block egress in the areas being worked on.

Copies of the final engineer's report will be made available when received. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donna Bernard, thanks her staff and the contractors who have been working on these issues. She also appreciates the cooperation from Town Hall staff. All are to be commended for the tremendous strides made to limit school closures and assure student safety.

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