

April 21, 2023

Dear Bryan Families,

As you may know, Coeur d'Alene Public Schools is in the process of planning for two possible futures: one with, and one without levy funding. In the event the May 16th Supplemental Levy should not pass, there will be significant cuts throughout the district. As I mentioned in my previous letter, these cuts include reducing the number of elementary schools in the district. I have assured you that as I become aware of things, I will likewise keep our Bryan families informed. I have some updated information to share today.

Since the March levy failure the district has reduced the number of elementary schools being considered for closure. There are now four schools being looked at. Unfortunately, Bryan is on that list along with Borah, Dalton, and Ramsey.

I recognize if the levy passes, we won't need to close any of our schools. However, let me share what I know about the process so you can be prepared should Bryan ultimately close its doors. Here is what we can anticipate following a failed levy.

Sometime after May 17th it will be decided which school(s) will close. School location, building age and condition, school capacity/size, zoning, transportation, Title I funding, and many other factors will all be considered before making a final decision. Of course that selection will bring a lot of questions and concerns from many community members. There will be a process set up for this important need, but I do not have specifics to share about that at this time.

Deciding to close a school is a huge decision. It is not one to be made hastily. Losing 25% of our operating budget is massive and requires extreme cuts. I am confident that our district leadership team has been thoughtful in its decisions and will look at every detail as it works through this.

I also remain hopeful that none of this will be necessary and we can get on with our purpose of providing our children with the skills and experiences they need to be successful, happy, and healthy community members.

Although I knew it was a possibility, knowing we are being officially considered for closure is difficult to process. I am sure that is true for all of us, big and small. The staff understands this is something the children may be upset about. We feel strongly it is not our place to decide the how and when of sharing this information with them. Be assured as children return home from school today, this topic has not been discussed.

The next few weeks will be uncertain and carry the weight of the unknown with them. While I know it will take its toll, you can be sure we are still here alongside you to love and grow your children every step of the way.

The Bryan community has weathered many storms in its 100 plus years as a CDA community school. I have faith we will do so again. Please know that our staff recognizes and appreciates your kind words, partnership, and encouragement in this difficult time.

I will be in touch as I have more information to share.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Gorringe