



May 14, 2019

## **Poland school district closed for safety**

POLAND – Poland Central School District experienced a fire in the early morning hours before school today. The fire originated in the basement of the building, in the storage area located under the sixth grade classrooms at approximately 2:30 a.m. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

School district employees were notified of the fire by Poland's 24/7 Central Station Monitoring Service which calls staff members and 911 when detectors inside the school sense smoke or heat. The Poland Volunteer Fire Company, district personnel, and several neighboring fire agencies quickly responded to the scene.

Smoke was a primary concern throughout the morning and resulted in the need to close school. Due to the fact that fire investigators were still examining the building, only essential employees were on campus throughout the day.

Canceling classes was only one aspect of the response by district employees. The District has been working on notification and safety processes throughout the day. District personnel contacted the District's insurance company, responded to agency interviews and questions from Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Vendors were also contacted to examine the building's elevator and fire alarm systems.

The basement storage area in the school's 2003 addition suffered heavy smoke and water damage. The sixth grade wing suffered moderate smoke damage and will be require more extensive cleaning. The remainder of the building suffered minor smoke exposure.

As a safety precaution and to extend the time for initial clean-up, the district will be closed on Wednesday, May 15 and will not transport to programs at other schools. The Poland campus will also be closed on Thursday, May 16; transportation will be provided to programs at other schools on Thursday. Plans for Friday will be determined after initial clean-up and announced to our school community. Upcoming sporting events will continue whenever possible.

The district is extremely grateful for the response by the Poland Volunteer Fire Company, the Newport Fire Department, Herkimer County Emergency Services, and the numerous other agencies that assisted today. We are extremely proud of our school building and look forward to getting it back up and running in the near future.