

To Have School or Not To Have School

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As you well know, school was dismissed recently because of the weather. I'd like to explain the process I go through before that decision is made. First, it is my decision but I do seek opinions from others before I make the final decision. Our policy at PVCS states that we are not obligated to follow the decisions of the surrounding counties. That is, if Cheatham, Davidson, Montgomery, and Robertson counties do dismiss school, we do not necessarily follow suit. In most cases they have to contend with buses as a means of transportation which we do not. However, I do have to consider that PVCS does have students, faculty, and staff from those surrounding counties and while they are not dependent upon us to get them to school, they may have difficulty because of the conditions of the side roads. Each of these counties only has to worry about students in their particular county. PVCS has to think about all the counties. What you may not realize is that even when we have school when surrounding counties do not, often times parents still keep children home, particularly in the day care and preschool areas. But even then, there are some parents who have students here and in a public school which gives them the problem of leaving some at home while others go to school. When this happens it is not uncommon to have only a few children but yet the staff has to be here. That becomes a financial burden on our part by having to pay a staff to be here for only a few students.

Another factor I have to consider is the condition of our parking lot, drive way, and ramps to the modular buildings. If they are unusually icy it becomes a safety factor even if the main streets are clear. Knowing teenagers as I do, I fear that some of them who drive will want to make games out of driving on the ice and the thoughts of someone being hurt because of teenage foolishness scares me.

It is never an easy decision. Whatever I decide, I cannot win. Some will like it; others will not. When I do have to make the decision I'm always hopeful to be able to make it the night before. This gives parents more time to make arrangements. To have school and have to dismiss early is even more chaotic. To wait until the next morning to make a decision makes it harder on parents to make arrangements.

I deeply apologize for any inconvenience but I live by this principle: "I'd rather be safe than sorry."