

## LESSONS LEARNED, SUMMARY

Superintendent Shay Mikalson and the executive team support the work done prior to, and throughout, the December 2016 and January 2017 storms that pummeled Deschutes County. They applaud work done by the maintenance and custodial crews, as well as contractors, to remove snow and reopen schools.

While research found many things that worked well, staff learned some things to do differently during future storms.

While a storm such as this one is unlikely to occur in the near future, Bend-La Pine Schools leadership team wants to do its best to be prepared for whenever a large storm event occurs. The district is making some changes to its practices to ensure district staff have clear instructions and procedures to follow.

Bend-La Pine Schools has implemented a new process for custodians, as described previously in the timeline above, to utilize during snow storms. This new procedure will be the practice going forward. Staff also learned the importance of monitoring snow levels regularly on roofs when snow begins to accumulate and regular monitoring will become an established practice. Moving forward, the district will work with structural engineers and be more proactive to close schools when mass snow accumulations occur on our roofs. While school closures cause unexpected disruption to families and students, they are necessary in order to remove snow from schools. District staff learned that snow removal from district roofs may need to take place while facilities are empty. With staff and contractors working together, removing snow from facility roofs will take days to complete.

Staff will also be tasked with checking snow depth daily on flat roofs when accumulations are at or above 12-inches in the Bend area and at or above 18-inches in Sunriver and La Pine. (Facilities in south county are built to a heavier snow load.) Once the snow threshold has been reached, a structural engineer will be contacted to determine next steps regarding current snow load/weight and removal strategies, if necessary.

*Facilities with flat roofs include: Education Center, Thompson School, Bear Creek Elementary School, Buckingham Elementary School, Juniper Elementary School, R.E. Jewell Elementary School, Kingston School, Kenwood School, Cascade Middle School, La Pine Middle School, Pilot Butte Middle School, Bend Senior High School, La Pine High School, Mountain View High School, and Summit High School.*

Bend-La Pine Schools will set aside contingency funds to cover costs accrued during future unexpected crises. Bend-La Pine Schools will seek resources to help fund emergency expenditures from all sources, which could include insurance and state and federal agencies.

And finally, moving forward Bend-La Pine Schools will prioritize pitched roofs on all future school designs.