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## WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Personnel

July 30, 2019

Dear Gill Hall Parents:

It has come to my attention that there are many rumors and inaccuracies floating around social media and the community about the Gill Hall construction project. I felt this was a good time to provide a project update and set the record straight with correct and factual information. We like to pride ourselves on being transparent and maintaining an open line of communication, but when isolated conversations occur on private platforms like Facebook, we just aren't aware of the issue until someone brings it to our attention.

In regards to the Gill Hall project, the original overall timeline for the project is still intact. Overall, the project has gone smoothly with a few exceptions. Once we experienced the original delay in the spring with local permitting, we knew that the addition would not be ready in time for school. That wasn't a major issue because the rest of the building would still be available and we would have room for the current class load. Once the new renovation and new wing were completed we could then transition some of the classrooms into the new area.

Since then our plan for opening school on time has not changed. False rumors regarding the cafeteria and kitchen area just aren't true. The biggest obstacle has been a delay in the delivery of the classroom unit ventilators, which were impacted by a flood at the manufacturer's warehouse. While the current date for them to ship is August 30, we have a backup plan in place to install temporary ventilators in classrooms so we are able to start school on time. Once the new unit ventilators arrive they will be installed during non-school hours. This delay also impacts the installation of some casework but that will be installed with the new ventilators as well after the start of school.

Right now we are expecting the new wing to be done toward the end of September. The main parking area will be completed before school starts. An updated and bigger playground is also being installed and should be done around the start of school. Even though we are starting school on time, the building will be far from perfect for the first month of school, so everyone will be asked to exercise some patience and understanding. As with any construction project issues and obstacles are impossible to predict, but as of today this is the current status of the project. If you ever have any questions or need information on an issue please do not hesitate to call or email one of us. The threads on social media do not solve problems, but instead create additional problems and wasted time. We would love to help solve problems and get the correct information to those who need it. We are committed to communicating accurate and up to date information to our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. Ghilani

Superintendent of Schools

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