

Exhibit 1 – Explanation of Academic Wings of High School



Exhibit 2 – Understanding the severity of each classroom/walls



Exhibit 3 – Support walls – Concrete walls on upper floor are compromised and need to be further looked at.



Exhibit 4 – Collapsed Roof being removed



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The Ashtabula area city schools planned for 1040 hours which gives us 39 additional hours as a cushion for snow days. Thursday, February 6 I had to call a snow day, last week I had to call two cold days and in December. The days that 67 inches fell to the ground within 48 hours the entire county called off for calamity days. I believe it was four. So as of today, February 6, I have called a total of seven (Not including the 3 days in which teachers still worked full days) which exceeds the minimum hours. We are asking this committee to wave 19.5 hours that we do not consider calamity days. Ashtabula County was in a state of emergency and Lakeside High School has a roof completely collapsed that will cost at the minimum of 25 million dollars to replace, and I have heard estimates close to 40 million.. The students would have attended school, instead the students started Christmas break, but the teachers worked all three days until the 20th of December. would have gone until December 20 but the staff worked endless hours, past their contracted days to move into new buildings, set up their classrooms, a new lunchroom, two new offices, etc., prior to the students returning January 6.

1. Your testimony stated that remote learning was not an option. Members would like to understand the rationale and background for this decision, especially considering that AACS did eventually distribute chrome books and participate in some remote learning based on the timeline presented to the committee. **The district has always been one to one and all students have a device. Students in grades nine through 12 are assigned their own Chromebook, students in grades one through eight also have their own Chromebook. Kindergarten students have chrome tablets that do not go home with the student, but they're assigned to their own in school so we didn't distribute Chromebook because of the roof collapse, students always had devices. We were distributing Chromebook to students who left their devices/Chromebook in the high school and they were unable to retrieve them.** Additional questions related to this point: Were the chrome books damaged in the building collapse? Yes the insurance company is still doing inventory and coming across Chromebook as they do their walk-through. Was the decision not to go remote due to DEW not authorizing a waiver for remote learning opportunities? **No, the decision to not go remote was my initial thought, and my high school principal agreed with me. Remote learning is difficult for students and during Covid within the actual area. Ashtabula Area City Schools has been focussing on attendance and when we did on line instruction it was very low during remote learning time when led by teachers, our socioeconomic make up of the district has a very high poverty rate and it is difficult for parents to support remote learning so this option is not the best option for these students.** Was it perceived to be the least ideal long-term learning environment? **Yes admin, teachers and even students agreed they did NOT**

want on-line learning. Were the regular classroom teachers providing the remote instruction or was a different curricular arrangement made? **Regular classroom teachers would provide the instruction and if we have to make up the time and add three additional days it would cost the district \$400,000.00 to pay teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and administrative assistants.. Hiring subs to provide instruction is not authentic and would not be a financially, educationally sound decision.**

2. How did the district end up going remote for the rest of December? **The district had no choice but to go remote; there was nowhere to house 853 students. The high school was deemed unsafe for anyone, including staff and the central office staff to return.**

3. Was there a DEW waiver involved? **No, they were aware of our temporary circumstances and knew we did not plan to go remote.**

Were there any reasons that some of the lost hours weren't made up with remote instruction at this time? **We were not thinking about making up the time due to the fact that this was a complete devastation of the high school and by mother nature. We could not continue our remote learning because on December 17th the main server to the district was housed at LHS and the ceiling and walls surrounding the server started to be compromised. Our IT team had to remove and move the server room immediately and from Dec. 17 and January 28 the district did not have internet nor phone services. We were operating on one emergency cell phone.**

3. Are there any factors preventing the district from making up the lost days through an extended school year or remote learning during the Spring Break? **It would cost the district \$400K to pay staff to work these additional days. Also, families have planned trips as has staff. Our attendance would be low students and staff wise. Why should students and staff have to work and go to school over their spring break because the district had a major catastrophe and roof collapse This was not planned and completely unexpected. The students have been directly affected enough why should the students have to be affected and rearrange their schedules due to a natural disaster? I welcome any representative that would like to come to Ashtabula to walk through the high school to take a tour to actually see the devastation in person.**

Would the regular classroom teachers be the ones providing any additional hours to meet the state minimum requirements? **Yes the regular classroom teachers would be the ones responsible to provide the make up minutes/hours. From a superintendent standpoint, a parent standpoint, a former principal and teacher, why would anyone else provide additional hours? Subs with and without degrees providing these additional hours would be a waste of money in my opinion and not what is best for students.**

4. Regarding the specific waiver to high school seniors, if we stipulated using the state competency requirement rather than an hours requirement for graduation would this allow the students to graduate on time? Why can't the graduation date be postponed by 1 week to allow for making up the hours? **The state competency standards are state**

testing, and seals, and there are different pathways in order for seniors to graduate. My fear would be if we did have seniors that did not meet these standards and relied on the hours. The reason that we cannot postpone graduation is due to the fact that our venue has been taken away and we are currently searching for a venue (Have tentatively found one for our May 29th date) and possibly might have to work around everyone else's graduation date. Parents, senior parents have planned around the graduation date of May 29th with open houses, etc. pushing it back a week is very inconvenient for families and honestly, it is not fair to our seniors to have to adjust and be negatively affected because of something that was out of their control..

5. There have been concerns expressed that waiving the minimum hours may result in more districts requesting waivers for to not make up calamity days. Do you have any thoughts on how we might prevent this?

The Ashtabula Area City School District is not requesting to waive the minimum hours due to excessive typical calamity days. Most districts, as we did, build in time for anticipated calamity days. The 19.5 hours, three days that I'm requesting to be waived are due to an unexpected, uncommon, natural disaster of 67 inches of snow that fell within 48 hours that caused an entire roof to collapse and make a high school that is capable of housing 1500 students completely unsafe to re-enter waiver days. So unsafe that the teaching staff was not able to re-enter to gather any of their belongings. I have attached a few most recent pictures from our insurance company. The estimated repair cost is over \$30 million, closer to \$40 million, with the possibility of demolition of the entire second floor and replacement of everything inside of the building. My suggestion and thoughts. that if these three days were waived for the Ashtabula Area City Schools, they were waived due to the fact that it was a natural disaster caused by mother nature that prevented students from actually physically returning to a building. Just typical calamity days are not justification to be granted to be waived, they would have to be some extreme or extenuating circumstance to even be considered. Schools should not request waivers of typical calamity days ever, I would not be here today if it were typical calamity days, I am speaking of complete devastation of a high school building.

In conclusion, I believe that the severity of the damage and damages to the front part of the building and some to the back are justification for these three days 19.5 hours to be waived. What the staff had to go through and how they handled it in those three days is remarkable. I encourage you to drive to Lakeside high school and allow me to walk you through the building so you completely understand the devastation of mother nature and 6 feet of snow on a roof with metal trusses that failed., and actually bent and pulled cement brick apart and collapsed completely.