

Wolcott Public Schools

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Public Statement Regarding Status of District Computer Network

September 5, 2019: 8:30 AM

At approximately 8:30 AM, Wednesday, September 4, 2019, suspicious activity was noticed on our computer network. Given the district's ransomware attack in June of this year, I chose to act with an overabundance of caution and directed our IT Director to shut down all systems: this included all email, network service, and internet. Our network remains voluntarily shut down this morning.

At this time, we are collaborating with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate whether this is another malicious attack on our systems, separate from the attack earlier this summer.

We are marshalling internal and external resources and personnel to bring our systems back to normal as quickly as possible but at this time I do not have an estimated timeline to share with you.

I met yesterday with all school principals and central office staff to ensure that our schools were able to operate safely and that instruction of our students can continue. All Board of Education members are engaged in and supportive of our efforts to return to normal operation.

Our phone systems are operating normally and parents are reminded that they should not use email to communicate with their child's school until further notice.

This matter remains a criminal investigation with the Wolcott Police Department and questions regarding the criminal nature of this matter should be directed to Chief Stephens.

I will update you again when I have further news to share.

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools