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Dear SRCS Community,

Thank you for your graciousness around our emergency decisions made today. We made the best in-the-moment decisions we could based on all pertinent information. I have received feedback that lateness in the call was disruptive and unsafe. We will be reviewing all emergency and communication procedures to ensure we learn and grow with every situation.

The decisions made today were based on all information on hand and, as in the case of emergencies, much of the information changed in a short period of time. We had people in place to assess sites, contact support agencies and/or organizations, and communicate with other districts.

Early in the morning we had assessed our sites were safe. Our sites had power, there was limited water pooling in common areas and our busses had begun their routes as roads were open. We had early morning communications with our partner districts that they were remaining open and we wanted to have families intact and moving together. We decided to remain open. We began communicating that decision at approximately 7:00 a.m.

Later, flash flood warnings went out from CHP as roadways became more dangerous. Our phone system became unpredictable and staff could not make it to work. The weather forecast continued to predict high rainfall throughout the day. We then made the call to close. Clearly, we had to communicate that decision as well. That communication cycle began around 7:40 a.m.

We work as a team to make these important decisions. However, I do accept responsibility and take all feedback. We are committed to serving our community and take that responsibility seriously. While I regret the communication first to stay open and then to close caused confusion, the unpredictability of the conditions and continued deteriorating weather made the second decision necessary.

We are making the decision now to close schools tomorrow, Friday the 12th, as the dangerous unpredictability continues throughout the day and night. Staff will be working throughout the weekend to ensure our campuses are safe for next week.

Thank you for your cooperation as we all made the best decisions we could in these critical circumstances. Every situation is a learning opportunity and we take our responsibility to educate and care for your student seriously.

Respectfully submitted,

Socorro Shiels