



HORNELL

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Pearl Street • Hornell • New York • 14843

Douglas H. Wyant, Jr., Superintendent
Phone 607•324•1302
FAX 607•324•4060
Business Office
607•324•7634

Schools

Senior High	324-1303
Intermediate	324-1304
Bryant	324-2171
N. Hornell	324-0014

July 27, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members,

This summer, when construction crews began working in the wing of the Intermediate School added in 1930, they uncovered cracking plaster on the interior walls of the structure. A structural engineer from Hunt Engineers, Architects and Surveyors was enlisted to inspect the exterior walls to determine the cause of the cracks to the interior.

In a detailed report that we received on July 22, the architect explained that cracking and separation between the exterior walls, the floors and roof deck are occurring throughout the addition, with the most noticeable areas occurring at the corners of the wing. The report identified two possible causes for what has occurred; the concrete foundation wall has settled and/or the hollow clay tiles used as a primary building material when the walls were constructed aren't strong enough to support the weight of the floor and roof systems that are bearing on them.

In addition to the separation of the floors from the weight-bearing exterior wall, there also is evidence to suggest that the brick façade has separated from the clay tile wall. It was impossible to detect what has occurred until crews began renovating the building and the affected areas were exposed.

The architect's report recommends that the 1930 addition should not be used until these structural problems are remedied. Architects from Hunt Engineers and our construction management firm, Welliver McGuire, are currently developing options for handling the situation and ensuring the safety of our students and staff. We will present their findings to the Board of Education at its next meeting on Tuesday, August 2.

Please be assured that when school opens in the fall, no students or staff will be located in the 15 classrooms in the 1930 wing. We have made plans to accommodate all of our students and staff safely. Beginning in September, the Intermediate School will house all district students in grades 4-6. Students in grades 2 and 3 will attend Bryant School and those in kindergarten and grade 1 will attend North Hornell School. Students at the High School will not be affected.

Also, it's important to note that moving forward in this unforeseen situation, the Board of Education and I will make decisions to protect the safety of our students and staff. At the same time, we'll strive to make the best use of the funds you have entrusted to us for the maintenance and construction of this community's school buildings. We appreciate your patience and continued support of our district. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Wyant, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools