High Park Fire – PSD Actions

Talking Points

PSD Staff have been involved since the High Park Fire broke out on Saturday, June 9.

There are two phases to crisis management:
- Response
- Recovery

INITIAL RESPONSE:
- Facilities, Security, IT, Custodial – (Pete Hall, Shawn Streeder, Don Begin, Brian Elhaus) establishment and operation of shelter at CLPMS
- Principals of impacted students (Roxanne Hall, Patrick Kind, Skip Cadoo) – made immediate contact with families about needs/impacts/coordination of donations/supplies and picnic at CLPMS for families
- EAS (Cindy Guillaume, Jessica Saperstone) – counseling for impacted staff at shelter
- Mental Health Team (Melanie Voegli-Morris, Cheryl Duke, Shannon, Margaret) – counseling for impacted students and families at shelter
- School Services (Kevin Hahn, Sonja Ballstadt, Edie Eckles, Rachel Askeland) – coordination of school programming/services for impacted schools
- Communications (Danielle Clark, Valerie Van Ryn) – emails to parents, staff, community/updates to PSD website/compilation of community resources on one centralized page on PSD website
- JSSC staff (Sonja Ballstadt, Tessa Daggett, Jaime Engel, Kristin Bennett) – collection of donations/gift cards for impacted students and staff
- HR (Chuck DeWayne) – support for staff impacted by fire
- Federal Programs (Jan DeLay)– support for students through McKinney Vento homeless resources
- Special recognition to:
  - Roxanne Hall
  - Patrick Kind
  - Skip Cadoo
  - George Osborne – all of whom have worked tirelessly to connect with their families to assess needs, create connections to community services available, attend community briefings about fire updates, coordinate community picnic

RECOVERY
- Administration - appointed P. Kind as High Park Fire Community Liaison to work with impacted students and staff
• Facilities – coordination with support agencies regarding shelter/operational needs
• Communications – coordination with HPF Community Liaison and Cabinet regarding ongoing PSD actionsUpdates to website/emails to parents, staff, community
• School Services – support for HPF Community Liaison, transition of new principals into impacted schools, messaging about stability of future of mountain schools
• HR – support for impacted staff (EAS services, messaging about stability of jobs)
• Cabinet – discussions about support for impacted schools in terms of SBB and transportation for displaced students
• Federal Programs – support for students displaced by fire through McKinney Vento programs

VIDEO

Watch here: http://epresence.psdschools.org/1/Watch/1083.aspx

High Park Fire
Chronology of PSD actions

SATURDAY, June 9 – 11:00 a.m.
• CLPMS established as shelter
  o Facilities, IT, Security on hand to assist with evacuees and preparations
• Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) call impacted families to assess needs
• Update to PSD website by Communications

SUNDAY, June 10
• Facilities, Security, IT assist with community briefing at CLPMS
• Mental Health Team at CLPMS to support impacted students
• EAS at CLPMS to support impacted staff
• Discussions about Athletics and summer programs with school services, facilities, athletics, communications
• Communications conducts messaging to parents, community, staff about no summer programs/athletics on Monday
  o Emails to community, parents, staff
  o Updates to PSD website by Communications
• Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) call impacted families to assess needs

MONDAY, June 11
• Discussions about second day operations by Cabinet members/Superintendent
  o Decision to resume normal operations
• Shelter moved to The Ranch
• EAS/Mental Health Team/Principals attend briefings at The Ranch to support impacted students and staff
• Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) call impacted families to assess needs
• Communications begins to create listing of impacted staff members
• JSSC begins to collect money for American Red Cross efforts
• JSSC begins campaign for gift cards for impacted students and staff
TUESDAY, June 12
- Principals of Mtn schools, CLP schools call impacted families to assess needs
- Facilities, School Services, Communications continue monitoring of situation for ventilation/smoke for summer programs, athletics and communication needs
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families
- JSSC continues campaign for gift cards for impacted students and staff

WEDNESDAY, June 13
- Communications, School Services, Risk Management and HR begin to plan dinner for PSD staff impacted by fires (solicit location, donations, food)
- PSD Child Nutrition donates 5 pallets of food to Salvation Army under the USDA Disaster Program
- PSD CN staff works with principals on community picnic at CLPMS
- Principals of impacted schools work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families

THURSDAY, June 14
- Cabinet meets with impacted school principals regarding fire response activities by schools/district
- P. Kind designated as High Park Community Liaison to work with impacted students and staff through July
- Identification of food resources through summer feeding sites of Irish, Putnam, Lincoln
- Communications creates special High Park Fire update page on website
  - Communications compiles active resources in community for fire victims on PSD website
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families

FRIDAY, June 15
- Shelter reopened at CLMPS
  - 24 hour custodial support reinstated
- Schools host community picnic at CLPMS for impacted families
- Nearly $600 in gift cards (from JSSC) given to P. Kind for distribution at picnic to impacted families
- JSSC continues campaign for gift cards for impacted students and staff
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families

WEDNESDAY, June 20
- CLPMS shelter closed
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families
- JSSC continues campaign for gift cards for impacted students and staff
- Meeting with School Services, HR and Communications and school principals/P.Kind regarding HPF fire update.
  - Decision to combine school community picnic and JSSC staff dinner into one event on June 28

THURSDAY, June 21
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) work with community to solicit needed items for impacted families
- Principals (R.Hall, P.Kind, S.Cadoo) attend community meetings in Red Feather and Glacier View

SUNDAY, June 24
- CLPMS Shelter reopened
  - Security, IT, Facilities, Custodial support on hand
  - Community briefings return to CLPMS from The Ranch
TUESDAY, June 26
- PSD team visits Stove Prairie ES
- JSSC collects $1200 in cash for gift cards and another $800+ in gift cards themselves for impacted families
- JSSC drops off $210 in collected donations for Red Cross

WEDNESDAY, June 27
- Gift cards given to P. Kind for distribution to impacted families and staff

THURSDAY, June 28
- Community picnic for impacted students and staff at City Park hosted by schools with support from JSSC departments, staff

High Park Fire Slides

Slide 1
Poudre School District:
- 27,510 students (PK-12)
- 3,500 employees
- 50 Schools

Student Demographics:
- Free/Reduced Lunch: 31.6 %
- Special Ed: 7.88 %
- ELL: 9.76 %

Student Ethnic Breakdown:
- American Indian: .52%
- Asian: 3.07%
- Black: 1.32%
- Hispanic: 17.67%
- White: 74.06%
- Hawaiian Or Pacific
- Islander: .13%
- Two or More: 3.22%

Slide 2
Immediate Impacts (first 48 hours)
Community
- American Red Cross Shelter
- First Responder Care/liaison
- Liaison with county (ICS, briefings, evacuations, etc.)

Students and Staff
- 28 families (52 kids) lost homes (elementary, middle and high school)
- 8 staff members lost homes
- Counseling

Secondary Impacts (3 days – 3 weeks)
Community
- Outpouring of help (money, gift cards)
- Facility usage for briefings, shelter, staging
- Coordination with FEMA, County, etc.

Students and Staff
- Liaison with families for community/donations
- Counseling for students/staff
- Events for students/families (Picnics, parents’ day out, child care, etc.)

Back to School Impacts (two months out)
- Counselors on staff for students (Fears)
- McKinney Homeless and busing to schools for those displaced
- Enrollment issues

Slide 3
Lessons Learned:
- Designate one person to be central point of contact for families
- Have systemic way of tracking students/staff impacted
- Communicate early and often to everyone. You would be amazed at who wanted to know the status
- Hold weekly debriefing meetings
- Look at how financial restrictions for your district accounting can be handled in event of emergency
- Have someone from the SCHOOL call the families (they want a familiar voice)
- Recognize that people trust schools, but don’t always trust government
- Don’t underestimate the power of a hug
- Don’t forget about staff. Find ways to relieve them of duties/stress if possible
- Know that impacts are long term (new fires = fear for kids this year)

Poudre School District: High Park Fire – Adopt-a-Family Guidelines

As part of ongoing efforts to support PSD families who have been impacted by the High Park Fire, Poudre School District has created guidelines for identifying families in need that community members/organizations can support in the coming months. These guidelines are intended to be a framework for allowing organizations and individuals to support impacted families and staff through various support mechanisms. PSD will act as the liaison between the family and the supporting agency/organization/individual, but will not engage in the support itself.

Criteria for being selected for support:
- Displaced current PSD family or staff member
  - Home lost
  - Home damaged (smoke, water) and is uninhabitable

Process:
Communications lists each family on an index card (each card is numbered and corresponds to a particular family)
  - Information card contains the following:
    - Members of family (no names)
    - Loss (i.e. home burned, smoke damage, etc.)
    - Insurance deductible (if applicable)
    - Needs (clothing, food, gas, shelter, etc.)

Cards are posted at JSSC Central Office on LaPorte Avenue
Interested individual/organization selects card; Information given to Communications
Communications passes individual/organization information onto Patrick Kind
Community Liaison notifies family that their card has been selected and contacts organization to see if they need assistance
Organization buys/procures needed items
  - Organization takes items to Exodus warehouse on Prospect Avenue; Items are placed in numbered slot
Community Liaison calls family to let them know that items are at warehouse and family picks up items