

**Decker, Tom G.**

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**From:** Kevin Coles [kevin.coles@ndcel.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 11:20 PM  
**To:** Decker, Tom G.  
**Subject:** update

Hello Tom,

I want to thank you for all your help. I have appreciated your suggestions, contact information and the opportunity to just visit about our situation in Northwood. It has been appreciated!

1) Attendance:

I am proud to tell you that our student attendance was only 12 students less than projected. Of the 12, 3 will be returning on October 1 ( they were displace from home and are attending in Larimore until suitable housing is available in Northwood); 2 were already transferring BT (Before Tornado); which means we really only are down 7 students. I really believe that this is attributed to the quick action of the district as we announce a short term plan 3 days after the disaster and had our students in classrooms in Hatton after only missing five days of school! This was a major accomplishment for the district.

2) Classrooms: we received four portable classrooms from Grand Forks and are scheduled to receive two more from West Fargo. This gives us six portable classrooms. Grades 9-12 are attending school in the third floor of Hatton Public School and also some elective classes with Hatton Students. Grades 7-8 will be in our portables along with grades 4-5-6. Grades 1-2-3 will be in St. Johns Lutheran church for the rest of the year. Our Kindergarten students are in the Hatton Elementary School. Our goal is to have all of this in place by October 1. I believe we will then have a functional educational environment for the remainder of the school year, with minimal interruption and change. Again, achieving our goal of having all of our students in one area being taught by Northwood teachers.

3) Reorganization: the Northwood School Board has voted to put reorganization on hold at this time. We were not prepared as a school or a community to make decisions regarding this issue, largely in part due to the emotional stress and the approaching deadline. I am sure we would be willing to reconsider this, given more time.

I am proud of the progress that our district has made regarding the education of our students. I am equally proud of the local area and the state of North Dakota for all of their contributions, both in volunteering and in monetary assistance. It has truly been amazing!!!!

I also need to thank Mayville State University, MPCG, GST, and of course the Hatton School and Community. We could not have accomplished what we did without the help of these entities.

Although times have been tough, we continue to make progress "one day at a time".

"Tough Times Don't Last But Tough People Do"

Kevin M. Coles, Superintendent      Go Thunder  
 Northwood High School              Go Sioux  
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