



Harwood Unified Union School District

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Brigid Nease, Superintendent

Michelle Baker, Director of Finance/Operations

Sheila Soule, Director of Curriculum

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Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education
 Krista Huling, Chair, State Board of Education

Vermont Agency of Education
 219 North Main Street, Suite 402
 Barre, VT 05641

April 9, 2018

Dear Interim Secretary Bouchey and State Board Chair Huling-

I am writing this waiver request on behalf of the Harwood Unified Union Board of Directors regarding Title 16 section 1071 (c) that addresses school year and unanticipated closings. During the 2017-18 school year, the Warren Elementary School has faced two serious unanticipated disasters that prevent the school from holding the 175 school attendance days.

The first problem occurred following a 2.5 million dollar summer renovation to the school building that did not finish as suspected due to the discovery of and abatement for mold and asbestos that was not known. This resulted in delaying the opening of school for students by 6 days. Other HUUSD schools were operating and Warren was not on: August 28 and 29; September 5, 6, 7, and 8.

The second unfortunate, unanticipated occurrence was a failure of the new roof, which resulted in flooding of the school. Student and staff were relocated to Sugarbush Resort for a number of days, so additional days were not lost. The dates that Warren held school at Sugarbush were: Sept. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Just last week, Warren was hit hard by a wind storm that left most of the town without power and water for several days. Fortunately, school remained open running on a generator for two days. It has been a very difficult school year for students, families, and staff in Warren.

The HUUSD district schools will have 177 student days this 2017-2018 school year even though we scheduled 178. Our last student day will be Friday, June 15th. This is because we have also taken 5 inclement weather days (rough winter).

The HUUSD has professional development for teachers scheduled the week of June 18th that cannot be rescheduled.

For these reasons we are requesting that the State Board of Education waiver 4 student days for the Warren Elementary School students, making required attendance days for them 171. ($177-2=175-4=171$ totaling the 6 missed days.

Please let me know if I need to provide you any other information. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Brigid S. Nease
Superintendent of Schools

Cc Elizabeth Peterson, Principal