

In response to the emergency power and water outage at Canterbury Elementary School on October 24, 2017, Superintendent Dr. DaSilva-Knapton, is sharing the facts of the day. At approximately 9:30 am , CES lost power. Principal Carey notified the Superintendent and the Director of Facilities. EverSource was notified by the Director of Facilities and again notified by the Superintendent explaining the urgency of the situation. The Superintendent assessed the situation on site at Kitt Road, conferred with the Asplundh Tree Service personnel and saw the problem on Kitt Road. A small tree branch had fallen on the wires, shorted them out, and proceeded to travel down the wires causing a fuse to blow on Route 14. Superintendent Knapton spoke to the tree service personnel and inquired about how long this type of problem would take to fix. She assessed the timing of the situation. EverSource had given an estimated restoration of power by noon. The Superintendent conferred with the First Selectman to see if EverSource would come any earlier. The Superintendent met EverSource on the scene at 11:30 am and the power came back on at 11:45 am. At 11:50 am, the Superintendent was informed that the water pump did not turn on when the electricity was restored. This was unexpected. The water pump company was immediately called and arrived on the scene at 12:30 pm. By 12:10 pm, the Superintendent was considering plans of possible dismissal and/or transportation of all students to BMS. At 12:15 pm, the Superintendent sent a short message through Blackboard connect to all parents stating that we had a power outage, that power had been lost and restored, and that we were still working on the water. Meanwhile, the Director of Facilities and the water pump personnel continued troubleshooting the reason(s) why the water pump did not turn on automatically when electricity was restored. The Superintendent was in close communication with them. At 1:05 pm, the Superintendent made the decision to bring all students to BMS via bus with the intent to allow all parents to pick up their children at BMS, should they wish to. The Blackboard message was just about to be sent, buses were arranged, bus drivers were called in and then, at 1:15 pm, the water to the facility was restored. Superintendent ceased plans to evacuate the school. Another Blackboard message was sent out at 1:28 pm explaining that the water had been restored and early dismissal was not necessary. In the future, please be aware that the Blackboard message system only allows short snippets of information to be relayed. If anyone has any comments or concerns, please direct them to Central Office. The Superintendent's email is lknapton@canterburypublicschools.org. The well-being and safety of our children was always foremost in our minds as we waded through this unexpected situation.