

January 22, 2021

Dear SPF Community,

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate the internet outage that affected the district. I share in the disappointment our students and families felt after hearing the news last night that because of a cyber attack we needed to return to remote learning today. I understand that quick changes in the school schedule like this cause challenges in your personal schedules and difficult conversations with your children. I know it is hard to stay optimistic in a season that could be titled, “when it rains it pours.”

I am happy to share that the issue has been resolved and our students will return to hybrid on Monday, January 25th. I want to reassure you that the type of cyber attack the district experienced in no way poses a threat to your internal, home network, devices or personal information. Our tech. team identified a DDoS attempt which is a malicious attack disrupting the normal traffic pattern of a targeted network. Additionally, please know that there is no personal identifiable information hosted on our network.

Prior to the pandemic the Board of Education invested in a state of the art network. This has prepared us to provide ample bandwidth to support 1-1 devices, remote and hybrid learning. For those interested in the technical side of our network, this investment includes a 5 gigabit symmetrical fiber connection to the internet and 10 gigabit fiber links within our local network. The district partners with engineering consultants, Dyntek and Cisco to ensure that we have access to their expertise in the current trends of network and security.

This disruption could not have been anticipated. When this issue was first detected the district team immediately engaged in troubleshooting and escalated it to the engineering consultants. Please be assured that this incident has been resolved. We are secured by Cisco technologies as well as employing additional services from our internet provider to bolster reliability. For security purposes, further specifics and details of the security infrastructure cannot be shared. Additionally, the district has reported the attack on our network to both the New Jersey Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) as well as the F.B.I.

Enjoy your weekend and we look forward to seeing our students on Monday.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent