

ဘဉ်မနုၤအယိ မူခိၣ်ဖိအနံၤလဲၣ် ဒီး မူခိၣ်ဖိအနံၤကဲထီၣ်အသးဒ်လဲၣ်

လၢ ခြံ့ စတုနဟိး

တၢ်ဆၢတၢ်လၢ ယဟ်ပနီၣ်အိၣ်တဖၣ် ကဘဉ်ဝဲ မ့တမ့ၢ် ကကမၣ်ဝဲ ဒီးသန့ထီၣ်အသးလၢ ပုၤကွၢ်ထံသမံသမိး တၢ်အတၢ်ထံၣ် ဘဉ်ထွဲဒီး ကွိတထီၣ် မ့တမ့ၢ် ကွိထီၣ်ဝဲၤခံၣ် ဒိဖျိ မူခိၣ်ဖိလိၤအါအဖိခိၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်ဂီၢ်ခါ တကတီၢ်ညါအံၤ လၢယဂီၢ်ကမ့ၢ်ဝဲ နွံန့ၣ်အတီၢ်ပူၤ တၢ်မၤတၢ်ဆၢတၢ် ဘဉ်ထွဲဒီး ကွိထီၣ်ဘဉ်ဆၢဘဉ်ကတီၢ်, ကွိထီၣ် ဝဲၤခံၣ်, မ့တမ့ၢ် ကွိတထီၣ် ဒိဖျိမူခိၣ်ခိၣ်ကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤ အတၢ်အိၣ်သးအဖိခိၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယတၢ်လဲၤဒိဖျိ လၢကီၢ်ရၣ် လီၢ်ကဝီၤကွိခံတီၤ, တတိၤန့ၣ် ကလံၤစိးဒၣ်ခိထံၣ် ဒီး ဟူရိၣ်ကီၢ်ရၣ်လီၢ်ကဝီၤကွိ လၢကလံၤထံးဒၣ်ခိထံၣ်အပူၤ န့ၣ်လီၤ. ဒ်နထံၣ်မ့ၢ်အိၣ်အသး, တၢ်ဆၢတၢ်အဝဲအံၤ တမ့ၢ်တၢ်လၢအညိ, လီၤသးခု, မ့တမ့ၢ် လီၤတၢ်လီၤဆဲး ဘဉ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. မူဒါလၢအလီၤဘဉ်ယၤတဖၣ် ယတဟ်အိၣ်ဖဲသလိးဘဉ် ဒီး ယသ့ၣ်နီၣ်ယဟ်မၤတၢ်တၢ်တမံၤယိဒ်အံၤ ဝဲ အကဲ ကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ်အခါ ဘဉ်ထွဲဒီး အတၢ်န့ၣ်န့ၣ် မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤကွၢ်လုလီၤ အဂ့ၢ်အကျိၤန့ၣ်လီၤ.

Dr.Randall Zitterkopf မ့ၢ်တၢ်ကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ်ဝဲ ဝဲၤဟူရိၣ်အပူၤ လၢတဆံနွံန့ၣ်အတီၢ်ပူၤ စးထီၣ်ဝဲ ၁၉၉၁ တုၤလၢ ၂၀၀၈ န့ၣ်လီၤ. အဝဲကွဲးတၢ်လံာ်လၢ ကွိအကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ် တၢ်အိၣ်ဖိၣ်အဂီၢ် လၢအခိၣ်တီမ့ၢ်ဝဲ မူခိၣ်ဖိအနံၤ ဒီးမူခိၣ် ကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤအကျိၤအကျဲ အဂီၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. **Zitterkopf တဲဖျါထီၣ်ဝဲဒ်အံၤ..**

ဝဲယကဲကွိအပုၤပၤဆုၢ်ရၣ်ကျဲၤတၢ် လၢ၂၆န့ၣ်အတီၢ်ပူၤအခါ, တၢ်သံကွၢ်တထံၣ်လၢ ယသံကွၢ်ညိန့ၣ်အိၣ်မ့ၢ်ဝဲ “တနံၤညါအံၤပကထီၣ်ကွိဒါ”...တၢ်သံကွၢ်အဝဲအံၤဟဲအိၣ်ထီၣ်လၢယသးပူၤဝဲ မူခိၣ်ဖိတၢ်အၢၣ်ဟဲခံးသ့လီၤ လၢ ကီၢ်ခဲနဒၣ်အဆၢကတီၢ်, ဒီးတၢ်အံၤညိန့ၣ်ကဲထီၣ်အသးဝဲ နအိၣ်လၢ ကလံၤထံးဒၣ်ခိထံၣ်အပူၤအဆၢ ကတီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ဝဲယကွၢ်ထံသမံသမိး ယတၢ်စံၣ်ညိဆၢတၢ် လၢလၢပဲၤပဲၤ အဆၢကတီၢ်န့ၣ်, ပျဲယမၤရဲကွၢ် တၢ်ဆိကမိၣ်က မၣ်တနီၤန့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

တၢ်.. ဂံၢ်ခိၣ်ထံး တၢ်ဂ့ၢ်ဘဉ်ထွဲဒီး တၢ်တထီၣ်ကွိန့ၣ်မ့ၢ်ဝဲ ပုၤကွိဖိအတၢ်ပူၤတၢ်ဖျဲးအဂီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်ဂ့ၢ်တၢ် ကျိၤအဂ့ၢ်အဂၤခဲလၢာ် (ဒ်အမ့ၢ် မိၢ်ပၢ်ကအံးထွဲကွၢ်ထွဲအဖိဒ်လဲၣ် ဒီး တၢ်ဂဲၤလီၢ်ကွဲတဖၣ်စ့ၢ်ကိး ကဘဉ်တၢ် မၤဘဉ်ဒ်ဘဉ်ထံးအိၣ်)တဘဉ်ထွဲလိာ်အသးဘဉ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ခံ့.. ယသိလ့ၣ်ဖးဒိၣ်လၢ အကလဲၤဒိဖျိစၢၤယၤမူခိၣ်ဖိ ဝဲသိလ့ၣ်အဂၤလဲၤတဘူၣ်အခါ တအိၣ်နီၣ်တခိၣ်ဘဉ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယသိလ့ၣ်ဖိလၢ ပုၤနီၣ်ဝဲအခိၣ်ရံးလွံၢ်ကပၤလၢာ်တဘျီယိသ့ (all-wheel-drive)အိၣ်ဝဲန့ၣ်လီၤ.နီၢ်နီၢ် န့ၣ်, သိလ့ၣ်အဝဲန့ၣ် မ့ၢ်ဝဲလ့ၣ်ဒၣ်,ယမၤအတၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. ဝဲမူခိၣ်ကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤ တဂ့ၢ်ဒိၣ်ဒိၣ်အဆၢကတီၢ်န့ၣ်, အဝဲမၤဝဲယနီၣ် four-wheeler န့ၣ်လီၤ.

သၢ.. တလီၢ်မူခိၣ်ဖိလီၤတုၤလၢယယိၤဒုးမး ယဆၢတၢ်လၢ ယကပတုၢ်ကွိဘဉ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. တဘျီန့ၣ်, ပုၤတတီၤ ဖိတကၤသံကွၢ်ယၤ, မူခိၣ်ဖိမ့ၢ်လီၤဆဲးထီမး နကပတုၢ်ကွိလဲၣ်. ယတဲနံၤအိၣ်, “ကဘဉ်လီၤတုၤလၢယယိၤ ဒုး”. ယကြၢးသ့ၣ်ညါဆိန့ၣ်လီၤ. ပလီၢ်သးဝဲ နကတီၢ်နံၤတၢ်ဒီး ပုၤတတီၤဖိအဆၢကတီၢ်တက့ၢ်. အဝဲသ့ၣ်ပာ် ဝဲအခိပညိ ဒ်နတဲအသးန့ၣ်လီၤ-ဒီးပုၤနီၢ်တနီၢ်တနီၢ်လၢ အနာ်ဟူချးဝဲ ဆိကမိၣ်ဝဲလၢအနီၢ်ကီၢ်စ့ၢ်ကိး န့ၣ် လီၤ.

ယတဲ မူခိၣ်ဖိလီၤ တုၤလၢယယိၤဒုးန့ၣ် ကဲထီၣ်ဝဲ တၢ်ကတီၢ်တထံၣ်လၢ အတဘဉ်တၢ်ကွဲးလီၤအိၣ်လၢ တၢ် သီၣ်တၢ်သီအပူၤ လၢကီၢ်ရၣ်လီၢ်ကဝီၤကွိဘဉ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယနီၢ်ထီၣ် ၆.၆ခိၣ်ယိာ်, ဒီးယယိၤဒုးန့ၣ် ယံးဒီးဟီၣ် ခိၣ်လွံၢ်ခိၣ်ယိာ်ယဉ်ယဉ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

လွှ်.. ယတပတုာ်ကွဲးပျဲကွဲးထီၣ်အခိပညီ တမ့ၢ်လၢယဆိကမိၣ် တၢ်အဝဲန့ၣ် မ့ၢ်တၢ်ဂံၢ်ဆူၣ်ဘါဆူၣ် အတၢ်မၤဘၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယစီၤကွၢ်တၢ်အိၣ်သးသ့ၣ်တဖၣ်ခဲလၢာ်, ယတၢ်ပိာ်တဲသကိး တၢ်စံၣ်ညီၣ်ဆၢတၢ်ဒီးပုၤဂၤတဖၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ.(အဒိ..သိလ့ၣ်တၢ်လဲၤတၢ်က့ၤ ပုၤန့ၣ်တၢ်, ပၤဂၤကီၢ်ဝဲၤကျိၤ, ကီၢ်စံၣ်အပၤဂၤကီၢ်တဖၣ်, အဂၤတဖၣ်) ဝံၤမး ကိးပတုာ်ကွဲးန့ၣ်လီၤ.

ယံၤ.. ယအၢၣ်လီၤယသးလၢ ယမၤတၢ်စံၣ်ညီၣ်ဆၢတၢ်လၢအမၣ်တဖၣ် အိၣ်ဝဲန့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်သ့ၣ်တဖၣ်အံၤညီၣ်န့ၣ်အိၣ်ဖျါတြၢၢ်ကလၢာ် လၢပုၤသမံထံတၢ် အမဲၣ်ညါန့ၣ်လီၤ. ကျဲအလီၤတၢ်ကတၢၢ်တဘီ လၢတၢ်ကမၤလီၤတၢ်ဒ်သိး မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤကဂ့ၤထီၣ်က့ၤအဂီၢ်မ့ၢ်ဝဲ တၢ်ကဘၣ်ပတုာ်ကွဲး န့ၣ်လီၤ, တၢ်ဂ့ၢ်အမ့ၢ်အတီ လၢကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ်ခဲလၢာ် လၢအအိၣ်လၢ အိၣ်ကလၢဟံၤမါ အကလံၤစိးတဖၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါမ့ၢ်ဝဲ (The Waist Factor section para.1-11)န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ယမၤထွဲ Dr. Zitterkopf အတၢ်ဆိကမိၣ် လၢအဘၣ်ထွဲဒီး မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ တၢ်စံၣ်ညီၣ်ဆၢတၢ်အခံ အါမံၤန့ၣ်လီၤ. မ့ၢ်မဆါတနံၤညါအံၤ ဒီဖျါမူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ ဝဲဖိကဟၣ်ပီညါ ဒီး တၢ်မၤသကိးတၢ်ဒီး စိၣ်ဖိ အထံလီၤကီၢ်ပူၤ မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ ကရၢအယိ ကဲထီၣ်တၢ်ဘျူးတၢ်ဖျိၣ် လၢယဂီၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. ထံလီၤကီၢ်ပူၤ မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ ကရၢ ဆုၤန့ၣ်ဆိယၤ မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ တၢ်ကစီၣ်အဂ့ၢ်အကျိၤ န့ၣ်သိတချူး ကလံၤမ့ၢ်မၤအသး ဒီးဘၣ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

အါန့ၣ်အန့ၣ်, အဝဲသ့ၣ် ကတၢ်ကတီၤစ့ၢ်ကိးဝဲ တၢ်သံကွၢ်လၢတၢ်စံးဆၢအဂီၢ် လၢကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ်တဖၣ်အဂီၢ် ဒ်သိး အကမၤစၢၤပုၤ ဒ်သိးပကနၢ်ပၢ် မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ ကဒိဘၣ် ပလီၤကဝီၤဒ်လဲၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယန့ၣ်လၢ အဝဲသ့ၣ်အတၢ်မၤစၢၤ ဒီး အတၢ်ဆုၤတၢ်တူၤ ဟ့ၣ်ယၤအခွဲးလၢ ယကမၤတၢ်ဆၢတၢ်လၢအဂ့ၤကတၢၢ် လၢအဒိးသန့ၤထီၣ်အသးလၢ ခဲအံၤတၢ်ဟံၤဆိပာ်စၢၤတၢ်အဖိခိၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ဖဲယကူၣ်လိာ်တဲသကိးတၢ်ဒီး ထံလီၤကီၢ်ပူၤ မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ တၢ်ကရၢကရိ ဒီးနၢ်ပၢ်တၢ်လၢအကမၤအသး တဖၣ်ဝံၤအလီၤခံန့ၣ်, မ့ၢ်တၢ်ဆၢကတီၢ်လၢ တၢ်ကမၤတၢ်ဆၢတၢ်လၢ လၢအအိၣ်ဒီးတၢ်ပလီၤပဒိးသးအဂ့ၤကတၢၢ် လၢတၢ်ကကတၢ်ကတီၤန့ၣ် ၂၄နၢ်ရံၣ် လံာ်ဘိးဘၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါ ဆူပဟံၣ်ဖိယိဖိ ဒီးပုၤကွဲးဖိတဖၣ်အဂီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ဘၣ်သ့ၣ်သ့ၣ် နအိၣ်ဒီးသ့ၣ်ညါ ဘၣ်မနုၤအယိ တၢ်လီၢ်ဘၣ်ဆိ လံာ်ဘိးဘၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါ လၢ၂၄နၢ်ရံၣ်အတီၢ်ပူၤလဲၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ပလီၤကဝီၤကွဲး အိၣ်ဒီး ပုၤကလုာ်လၢအလီၤဆိလိာ်အသးအါကတၢၢ် လၢကလံၤထံးဒ်ခိထံၣ်အပူၤအယိ, တၢ်ဆဲးကျိးလိာ်သး မ့ၢ်ဝဲတၢ်တခါလၢ အလီၢ်ဘၣ်တၢ်ဆၢကတီၢ် လၢတၢ်ကမၤလီၤတၢ်ဒ်သိးဒီး ပုၤမၤတၢ်ဖိ, ပုၤကွဲးဖိ, ဒီး ဟံၣ်ဖိယိဖိတဖၣ် ကဒိးန့ၣ် တၢ်ကစီၣ်အဂီၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

အပူၤကွဲးတနံၣ် ယဆၢတၢ်တ့ၢ်လၢ တၢ်ကထီၣ်ကွဲးစၢၤခံ ဒီဖျါ ကလံၤဖဲတၢ်ဂီၢ်တၢ်ဟ့ၣ်ပလီၤအယိ န့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်ဆုၤလီၤ လံာ်ဘိးဘၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါဆူ ပုၤမၤတၢ်ဖိခဲလၢာ်အအိၣ် ဒီဖျါလီပရၢ, ဒီးကွဲးသရၣ်တဲဘၣ်ပုၤကွဲးဖိ တ ချူးဟါခိ ကွဲးပျါဒီးဘၣ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. ပသုစ့ၢ်ကိး ဖူးစံဘိး, ထွဲထၢၣ်, လီၤကဝီၤကလံၤဒၤ, ကွဲးဟူဖျါ, ဒီး ပလီၤကဝီၤ တၢ်ဟ့ၣ်ပလီၤအကျိၤအကျဲ လၢတၢ်ဒုးသ့ၣ်ညါ ပပုၤတဝါအဂီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. တနံၤယိဝဲန့ၣ်ဝံၤအလီၤခံ, တၢ် ဂီၢ်ဒိၣ်မး, ဒီးပပုၤနီၤကွဲးအသိလ့ၣ်ဘၢးစံတဖၣ် လဲၤနီၤဝဲအသိလ့ၣ်ဆူ သိလ့ၣ်ပတုာ်အလီၤတတီၤဘၣ်တတီၤ ဒ်သိးကမၤလီၤတၢ်ဝဲဒ်သိးဒီး ပသုတအိၣ်ဒီး ပုၤကွဲးဖိနီၤတဂၤလၢအဆၢထၢၣ်ခိးတၢ်လၢ တၢ်ဟံၤပတုာ်သိလ့ၣ်အလီၤတဂ့ၤအဂီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ပမ့ၢ်ဘိးဘၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါလီၤတ့ၢ်တၢ် လၢကျဲကိးဘိးဒီး တသ့ဖဲအသ့သန့ၤက့, ပအိၣ်ဒီးပုၤကွဲးဖိအါအါဂီၢ်ဂီၢ် လၢအဆၢထၢၣ်အိၣ်ခိးတၢ်လၢ တၢ်ဟံၤပတုာ်သိလ့ၣ်အလီၤ ဖဲသိလ့ၣ်ကလဲၤစၢၤစ့ၢ် ဓ့ၤနၢ် ရံၣ် ဒီဖျါကွဲးထီၣ်စၢၤခံ အယိ ဒ်လဲၣ်န့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်အိၣ်ဒီးပုၤကွဲးဖိ လၢအဆၢထၢၣ်အိၣ်ခိးသိလ့ၣ်လၢတၢ်ဂီၢ်ဒိၣ်မးအကျိၤ ဖဲသိလ့ၣ်တဖၣ်အဆၢကတီၢ် ဟ့ၣ်ပုၤ တၢ်ပူၤတၢ်ဖျဲး တၢ်ဘၣ်ယိာ်ဘၣ်ဘိအသိတခါ လၢပကဘၣ်အံးထွဲကွၢ်ထွဲ ဒီး မၤစ့ၤလီၤအီၤတုၤအလီၤမၤ န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ဖဲပအိၣ်ကတီၤပသး လၢတၢ်ဂီၢ်ခါအသိတဘျီ လၢမုၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤခါၣ်သးအပူၤအဆၢကတီၢ်အဂီၢ်, ဝံသးစူၤ သ့ၣ်ညါနဲ
ဒၣ်လၢ ယကကွၢ် မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤအကစီၣ် ဘူးဘူးတံၢ်တံၢ် ဒီး ယကကွၢ်ကျဲးစး ဆှၢလီၤ ၂၄န့ၢ်ရံၣ်လံာ်ဘိး
ဘၣ်သ့ၣ်ညါ ဖဲကွီၣ်ထီၣ်စဲၤခံ မ့တမ့ၢ် ကွီၣ်တထီၣ်ဘၣ် အခါန့ၣ်လီၤ. ယတၢ်ဆၢတဲာ် ကဒီးသန့ၤထီၣ်အသးလၢ
ပပူၤကွီၣ်ဖိ, ပပူၤမၤတၢ်ဖိ, ဒီးပဟံၣ်ဖိယိဖိ အတၢ်ပူၤတၢ်ဖျဲးအဖိခိၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ဝံသးစူၤ သ့ၣ်နီၣ် ထီၣ်လၢ နမ့ၢ်တူၢ်
ဘၣ်လၢ နဖိကလဲၤထီၣ်ကွီၣ်အဂီၢ် တၢ်ပူၤတၢ်ဖျဲးတအိၣ်ဘၣ်န့ၣ် နအိၣ်ဒီးတၢ်ခွဲးတၢ်ယၢ်လၢ နကဟ်အဝဲသ့ၣ်လၢ
ဟံၣ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. တၢ်ကူတၢ်သိးလၢအကြးဝဲဘၣ်ဝဲလၢ တၢ်ဂီၢ်ခါအဂီၢ် ဒ်အမ့ၢ် ဆုကၤမူခိၣ်ဖိ, စုဖျိၣ်, ခိၣ်ဖျိၣ်, ဒီး
ခိၣ်ဖဲးမူခိၣ်ဖိတဖၣ် မ့ၢ်တၢ်သ့ၣ်တဖၣ်လၢ နကဘၣ်ကတီၢ်ကတီၤယၢ်အိၣ်လၢ တၢ်ဂီၢ်ဒီးမူခိၣ်ဖိအဂီၢ် န့ၣ်လီၤ. ယ
သ့ၣ်ညါလၢ ယတၢ်ဆၢတဲာ်တဖၣ် ကဘၣ်တၢ်စံးဘျူးအိၣ်, ကဘၣ်တၢ်ဒုၣ်ဒ့ၣ်အိၣ်, ဒီးကဘၣ်တၢ်သူအိၣ်လၢ တၢ်
သူၣ်မံသးမုၢ်အဂီၢ် လၢတၢ်ကနီၤလီၤအိၣ်လၢ ပှၤတဝၢတၢ်ဆဲးကျိးဆဲးကျါအ ပူၤ န့ၣ်လီၤ.

တၢ်ဘိးဘၣ်ရၣ်လီၤ ဘၣ်ထွဲဒီး မူခိၣ်ကလံၤသိၣ်ဂီၤ အဂ့ၤအကျိၤ ကဘၣ်တၢ်ဘိးဘၣ်ရၣ်လီၤအိၣ်ဆူ ကွီၣ်ဖိဒီးမိၢ်ပာ်
တဖၣ်အအိၣ် ခိၣ်ဖျိ ကွီၣ်တၢ်ကစီၣ်, ကူၣ်သ့ခိၣ် အဖူးစံဘိး ဒီး အထွဲထီၣ်, Performance Radio,
Keloland, ဒီး Dakota News Now န့ၣ်လီၤ.

တၢ်အုၣ်သး

Zitterkoph, R.A (n.d.). *Snow Days and the Weather Chanel*. AASA
<https://www.aasa.org/SchoolAdministratorArticle.aspx?id=8700>

The Why and the How of Calling Snow Days

by Kraig Steinhoff

The decision I can guarantee will be correct and wrong based on the eye of the beholder is making a call on snow days or late starts for school. This winter will be my seventh year having the sole discretion of whether the district is on time, late, or canceled due to the weather conditions. My experience with this spans two school districts, one from North Dakota and the Huron School District in South Dakota. As you can imagine, the decision is not easy, fun, or foolproof. I don't take the responsibility lightly and remember my father doing the same as a superintendent with his trusty weather radio.

Dr. Randall Zitterkopf was the superintendent in Huron for seventeen years spanning from 1991 to 2008. He wrote a guest column for The School Superintendents Association titled *Snow Days and the Weather Channel*. Zitterkopf (n.d.) explained:

In my 26 years as a school administrator, the one question I probably answer most often is “Are we having school today?” — that is, when the ominous snow clouds roll in from Canada, which can happen quite often when you live in South Dakota.

As I analyze the details of my decision-making process, let me clear up some misconceptions.

First, the primary concern in forming a decision about calling off school is the safety of the students. All other factors (such as how parents will deal with child care and whether sports activities will be affected) are irrelevant.

Second, I don't own a big honkin' Hummer that will get me through the snow where other vehicles fear to tread. I do own an all-wheel-drive sedan. Actually, it belongs to Linda, my wife. When the weather is really, really bad, she lets me use the four-wheeler.

Third, the snow does not have to be up to my waist before I decide to call off school. Once upon a time, a 1st-grader asked me how deep the snow had to be before I called off school. I joked, “It has to be up to my waist.” I should have known. Be careful when trying to joke with 1st-graders. They tend to take things literally — as do some adults when they overhear some conversations.

My up-to-my-waist comment somehow became an unwritten law in the district. Because I stand 6-foot-6, my waist is up about four feet from the ground.

Fourth, I don't make the call to leave school open because I think it's the macho thing to do. I simply weigh all of the circumstances, discuss the decision to be made with others (e.g., transportation supervisor, police department, state patrol, etc.) and make the call.

Fifth, I admit to having made mistakes in my decisions. These are usually obvious even to the most casual observer. The most surefire way to make the weather turn nice is to call off school, a fact that all superintendents north of Oklahoma know (The Waist Factor section para. 1-11).

I echo many of Dr. Zitterkopf's thoughts on weather decisions. Today's weather technology and the teamwork provided by the National Weather Service of Sioux Falls are a true benefit for me. The National Weather Service sends me weather support packets up to seven days before a significant storm. Additionally, they will provide question-and-answer sessions for superintendents to help us understand how the weather may affect our district. I believe their help and guidance allow me to make the best decision possible based on the most current predictions.

Once I have consulted with the National Weather Service and understand the forecast, it is time to make the most prudent decision to provide a 24-hour notice to our families and students. You may wonder why 24 hours is needed for advance notice. Our district is one of the most diverse in South Dakota, so communication takes more effort to ensure staff, students, and families receive the message.

Last year I decided to have a late start due to a wind chill warning. The notice went out to all staff via email, and teachers let students know before they left for the evening. We also used Facebook, Twitter, local radio, TV, and our district alert system to inform our community. The following day it was bitterly cold, and our bus drivers drove their routes in their vehicles to ensure we did not have kids standing and waiting at the bus stops. Although the announcement went out in every way possible except for carrier pigeons, we still had a handful of students waiting at the bus stops for a bus that wouldn't show up for several more hours due to the late start. Having students wait in the severe cold for a bus that won't arrive gives us another safety concern to monitor and minimize.

As we prepare for another winter in the midwest, please know that I will keep a close eye on the forecast and will strive to give a 24-hour notice if school is late or canceled. My decision will be based on the safety of our students, staff, and families. Please remember, if you feel it is unsafe for your child to go to school due to the weather conditions, you have the right to keep them home. Proper winter clothing including a winter coat, gloves/mittens, stocking hat, and boots, is essential to be prepared for the cold and snow. I know my decisions will be applauded, booed, and used as content to share on social media.

Weather-related announcements will go to all students and parents via Campus Messenger, the superintendent's Facebook and Twitter accounts, Performace Radio, Keloland, and Dakota News Now.

Reference

Zitterkoph, R.A. (n.d.). *Snow Days and the Weather Channel*. AASA.
<https://www.aasa.org/SchoolAdministratorArticle.aspx?id=8700>