

Cople Elementary School Electrical Crisis

Timeline (Updated 2-29-2024)

Friday, March 1, 2024

- The temporary breaker will be installed by Carter Machinery, Richmond, VA., at Cople Elementary.

Thursday, February 29, 2024

- Power to the school failed at 7:15 AM.
- Students were on the buses. The school was warm and breakfast was prepared.
- Students were fed and released at 10:30 before the building cooled.
- Maintenance was able to get all equipment and supplies for a temporary breaker to Cople Elementary

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

- Students attended school
- No power fluctuations noted.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

- Students attended school.
- No power fluctuations noted.

Monday, February 26, 2024

- Service providers stated that school could be held as long as the breaker held.
- Students will return on Tuesday.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

- No power to the school. Maintenance recommended school be closed on Monday

Saturday, February 24, 2024

- Breaker tripped again. No power to the school.

Friday, February 23, 2024

- Students returned to school.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

- T. Siemans, from the federal govt., representatives from Rexall, and McGee Electrical assisted in trying to find the problem.
- Late that afternoon, it was determined that ground fault settings needed to be adjusted on the 1200 AMP breaker.
- The settings were adjusted and the building regained power.
- However, school officials were cautioned that afternoon to hold children out for forty-eight hours.

**There is a question and current research on who owns the 30-40-thousand-dollar breaker.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

- Students and staff returned to the building believing the crisis was averted.
- At 9:00 PM, I received a call that the breaker was off.
- Maintenance arrived and tried to trip the breaker. It wouldn't stay on. Only the kitchen had power.

Monday, February 19, 2024

- The transformer was set in place by McGee Electrical

- Electricity was restored throughout the building.
- Everything was cut back on, including the Solar Array.

Saturday, February 17, 2024

- Mrs. Hickman reported that her monitors were going off. Maintenance reported to the building and reengaged the breaker during the AM.
- At 3:00 Mrs. Hickman called again to report her monitors were going off. The breaker had tripped again.
- Maintenance cut off all power to the building.

Friday, February 16, 2024

- Maintenance waited for the parts to arrive on Monday. They monitored the school.

Thursday, February 15, 2024

- The power to the solar array was cut off.
- The power in the school stayed on until Saturday. Maintenance remained on site several hours to observe and monitor.
- Areas of the school lost power. Specifically, the area that powered the internet, phones etc. was out. Staff and students could not come to the building on Friday.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

- Called Sun Tribe Solar and commercial electricians to assist in addressing the problem.
- McGee Electrical from Spotsylvania came on site to assist in the troubleshooting and to provide cost estimates and protocols to address the situation
- Maintenance placed the order for the transformer. Parts for the transformer came from California, Indiana, and North Carolina. It normally takes at least 60 days to get a transformer of this size.

- Continue to talk to Sun Tribe for assistance.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

- The electric current cut off and the breakers were tripped
- Maintenance began the process of elimination (trouble shooting) to find the nature of the problem
- Trouble-shooting included a tree that had fallen near Carmel Church
- They flipped the breakers in the school one at a time
- Not long, they smelled smoke and saw a transformer burning.