NORTHPORT - EAST NORTHPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

NORTHPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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December 15, 2000

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The following is a report of a meeting of the ad hoc committee on health and safety which took place on Thursday, December 14, 2000:

1. Chlordane. The committee reviewed the test results with Dr. Gilbert of Enviroscience Consultants, Inc. Outside the building, eight soil tests were performed. Of them, six proved negative; two showed trace amounts. Inside the building, two air tests were negative, and of the six extensive wipe tests, five were negative and one showed a very small amount, considered insignificant. Dr. Gilbert reviewed the EPA data on chlordane and the committee agreed that, while chlordane, at certain levels, has been proven to be carcinogenic in animals, the amounts found thus far have been very low. The levels found would probably be similar to the levels found around many homes because of the widespread use of the chemical years ago. The committee agreed that additional testing is warranted, but also agreed that, based on the evidence so far, chlordane is not "the problem" in the building.

2. Health Department. Dr. Brosnan reported that, when he first approached the Suffolk County Health Department several weeks ago, he was told that they did not really have the manpower to assist. This week, though, Dr. Brosnan again contacted the Department, and they are now very willing to assist. They are reviewing the data and might possibly have a toxicologist to help us.

3. Cleanup. The committee discussed cleanup possibilities for the coming weekend. It was agreed that four rooms will be cleaned up.

   First, A-15 will be cleaned because of the trace amount of chlordane found in the room. All agreed this made sense.
   Second, D-42 will be cleaned because Tiffany-Bader (but not Enviroscience) found mold in the room.
   Third, C-34 will be cleaned because Enviroscience (but not Tiffany-Bader) found mold in the room.
   Fourth, A-16 will be cleaned because it is right next door to A-15, and people have been expressing concerns about odors.

It was agreed that the cleanup for the rooms would be the same as that which was done in G-51, i.e. from roof deck down, under negative air, with all surfaces wiped. Because there was a trace amount of chlordane found in A-15 and because the teacher in D-42 has had a reaction, possibly to the mold, both rooms should be retested before the room is reopened.

4. Possible major cleanup? The possibility was discussed that, over the holiday recess, possibly the entire building could be cleaned up. While not a lot has been found in the building, NYCOSH did recommend removing the fiberglass insulation and the old ceiling tiles and replacing them with harder, non-cellulose tiles. While the thinking had been that this would be a long range plan, if the Tiffany-Bader results show fiberglass in the dust (results expected Friday), perhaps this should be done as soon as practicable. It was noted that the cleanup in G-51 by the environmental remediation company, Boyle Services Inc., had been successful. While the teacher had a reaction a few days later in the room, once the custodians cleaned the surfaces again, the room has been fine. The thinking is that the first major cleanup worked, but the dust created a new problem, which was resolved with normal cleaning. Therefore, a major cleanup throughout the building should be successful. Mr. Resca stated he would get bids from outside agencies, and Dr. Brosnan stated he would review this with the Board of Education Monday evening; hopefully, the dust test results should be back by then. One issue was the replacement of the ceiling tiles. Most of the building has five foot tiles, which need to be ordered. If there is a major cleaning job, the ceilings may remain open for several weeks or months,. Everyone agreed that this was understandable and acceptable.

5. Sewer gas smell. Today, there was a short "puff" of the odor, in another part of the building. The school district will be bringing in one of the major commercial outfits to look over the entire drainage system.

6. Air handling. Tiffany-Bader had recommended that the entire air handling system be reviewed. They will be submitting a proposal. (A proposal was received Friday morning and is under review).

7. Dr. Brosnan mentioned his concern that two or three parents had called the State Education Department and raised questions in the minds of SED officials, and that this has the potential for delaying the approval of the portables needed in September. Everyone was concerned about this. Mrs. Roby, PTSA co-president, agreed to call Albany and provide another parent perspective.

8. It was agreed that the meeting originally scheduled for next Thursday, December 21, should continue to be held to review the air quality status.

If you have any other questions, please feel free contact me.
Sincerely yours,

Thomas Heinegg