



Estabrook Elementary School

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Dear Estabrook Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to update you on the presence of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) materials in the window caulk at Estabrook School and to communicate the Lexington Public School's immediate plan to safely address the PCB material.

As you recall this past spring, we learned that the window caulk at Estabrook School contains polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs.) PCBs are a manmade chemical used widely in construction materials prior to 1978. Pat Goddard, Director of Public Facilities Department, with the support of the School Superintendent and Town Manager, took a proactive approach to an EPA announcement regarding possible PCBs in window caulk and pursued a voluntary investigation of Lexington's school and town buildings. I have enclosed a Town of Lexington press release to this regard from Gerard Cody, Director of the Health Division, dated May 10, 2010.

On August 9, 2010, air sampling results indicated PCB in the air exceeding the EPA advised maximum concentrations. On August 16, 2010, Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E) and the Town of Lexington officials immediately sent a plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeking approval for the expedited removal of the caulk materials around all exterior windows of Estabrook School. Lexington received approval on the plan from the U.S. EPA on August 17, 2010. An August 18th meeting was held with Superintendent Paul Ash, Director of Public Facilities Pat Goddard, Director of the Health Division Gerard Cody and me to discuss specific steps for immediately moving forward on the plan. On August 23rd, financing was appropriated. On August 24th, the contract for the work was awarded. Work began today, Tuesday, August 24, 2010. Interior window caulk encapsulation will be completed prior to August 31, 2010, the first day of school. Exterior window caulk removal work may be completed within the first two weeks of school. The scope of this project addresses the interior and exterior caulk of all exterior windows of Estabrook School. The grade two modular windows do not contain PCB materials.

Gerard Cody, Lexington Director of the Health Division, has advised us on two main points. Our school has been safe; and it is safe to be in the school while this work is in process. Please see the PCB fact sheet, which is enclosed, as well as the Notice of Work letter dated August 23, 2010.

I am working closely with the Lexington Public Facilities Department on the scope and sequence of this work. Effective August 24th, a large crew will work Tuesday-Monday from 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., focusing initially on the inside of exterior windows. Contractors will wash each interior window frame, encapsulate the caulk with a specialized tape and apply new caulk over the tape. Protective plastic will be hung in halls and a HEPA unit will run during the work. Contractors will work systematically through the building, in concert with Lexington Public Facilities Department

supervision, to achieve the plan objectives. Although staff and others can be in the building while work is ensuing, it is proper safety practice that we are not in the classroom while the contractors are working. If you are bringing your child for an informal visit to the school this week, you may want to call in advance to see if your child's hallway is open. At this time, our beautiful new playground is completed and parents are welcome to have their child(ren) reacquaint themselves with the school by playing outside on our new play structure.

I will keep you informed along the way. As the first classroom wings are completed, new air testing will be conducted and initial post monitoring results will be communicated to you by e-mail and posted on the LPS website: lps.lexington.ma.org/health. I would also like to invite parents to an optional question / answer meeting, held on September 1, 2010 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Estabrook Gymnasium with representatives from Facilities, the Health Division and administration.

In closing, I would like to express my profound appreciation. First, my thanks goes to our school custodial team for all they have done to help our school be fully ready - over one week in advance of schedule. The halls of Estabrook School are gleaming and beautiful. I know we all share great pride in our beloved school. The custodial work takes tremendous energy and teamwork to move furniture, reorganize resources, and clean to extraordinary levels. My thanks goes to Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Bouchard!

I also would like to express my sincere thanks to Paul Ash, Superintendent of Schools; Pat Goddard, Director of Public Facilities Department; Gerard Cody, Lexington Director of the Health Division; Sergio DeMango, DPF Facility Engineer; Manny Cabral, DPF Superintendent of Custodial Services; and the Estabrook Incident Management Team for their unending support and guidance during this time. Their help has been invaluable in carefully expediting this project to a safe and timely completion.

My humble gratitude goes to the Estabrook Faculty, who have generously supported the expeditious timeline and taken time to reorganize classroom materials for the benefit of the project.

Last but not least, - to you - the Estabrook Community, for your support and understanding as we move full steam ahead on addressing this issue. We are 100% committed to a safe and on-time opening for our student's first day: Tuesday, August 31, 2010. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I will help in any way I can. Thank you for allowing me to update you on the details I have to date.

Respectfully,

Sandra A. Trach
Principal

Enclosures: EPA News Release, September 25, 2009
Town of Lexington, Office of Community Development, Press Release, May 10, 2010
PCBs in Caulk – QA
Estabrook School, Notice of Work, August 23, 2010