



Lexington Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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September 21, 2010

Dear Estabrook Parents and Guardians:

At tonight's School Committee meeting, I will recommend the complete removal of all PCB containing ceiling tiles and cove baseboard. The consulting firm EH and E believes that these materials are the two remaining significant sources of PCBs. My goal is to reduce PCB levels below EPA guidelines as soon as possible.

After considerable conversations with EH and E and the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, we unanimously recommend the following plan be adopted by the School Committee.

Phase 1 – Saturday, September 25, through Tuesday, October 12, 2010

1. Remove ceiling tiles and baseboard cove in the Kindergarten wing of the school (Kindergarten rooms 1 through 4: Mrs. O'Hare-Gibson, Dr. Berenson, Mrs. Linton, and Ms. Drisko; Grade one rooms 5 and 6: Mrs. Kramer and Mrs. Robertson). This work will take place on Saturday, September 25, and Sunday, September 26. During the week of September 27, the air will be tested in these rooms. The students in these rooms will be relocated to other spaces within the building for two weeks. Mrs. Trach will present the details of the relocation plan at this evening's School Committee meeting.
2. The grade 2 students in the modular classrooms will also be relocated to other spaces in the building for two weeks while these three rooms will be occupied by Kindergarten students.
3. During the week of September 27, the air will be tested in rooms 1 through 6. Assuming that the results of the PCB test are below the EPA guidelines, the students who were previously assigned to these rooms will return to their original classrooms after the Columbus Day weekend (Wednesday, October 13). Please note - There will be no school for these students on Tuesday, October 12, so teachers can set up their classrooms.
4. Grade 2 students who are currently assigned to the modular classrooms (rooms 7a, 7b, and 7c) will return to their classrooms after the Columbus Day weekend (Wednesday, October 13). Please note - There will be no school for these students on Tuesday, October 12, so teachers can set up their classrooms.

Phase 2 – October through December 3, 2010

1. Vote of the School Committee to request that the Board of Selectmen set a special town meeting to appropriate funds for the full cost of this remediation project.
2. Vote of the Board of Selectmen to authorize a special town meeting in November and a warrant article to appropriate funds for the full cost of this remediation project.
3. Special town meeting in November.
4. The Department of Public Facilities, working in conjunction with the consultant EH and E, will prepare bid documents for Phase 3 work.

Phase 3 (Option A) – Friday, December 24, through Tuesday, January 11 (Remove PCB materials for remainder of the school.)

1. Remove PCB containing ceiling tiles and baseboards in the remainder of the school. This work will be completed by Saturday, January 8, 2011. Please note that students will have a two-week vacation.
2. All faculty and staff members will unpack boxes and reset rooms for instructional purposes on Monday, January 10 and Tuesday, January 11. Students will not attend school on these two days, which will be made up in June. Students will return to school on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.
3. Cancel February vacation and all Estabrook students will attend school that week - February 21 (President's Day), and February 22 through February 25, which is a total of four school days
4. Make-up days in June – Students will need to make up four lost days of school in June in order to provide 180 school days (182 days were built into the original calendar).

OR

Phase 3 (Option B) – Friday, December 24, through Tuesday, January 4, and Saturday, February 19, through Tuesday, March 1 (Remove PCB materials for half of the school during December vacation and the other half of the school during February vacation.)

1. Remove PCB containing ceiling tiles and baseboards in the first half of the school. This work will be completed by Sunday, January 2, 2011.
2. All faculty and staff members whose classrooms or educational spaces were abated of PCB materials will unpack boxes and reset rooms for instructional purposes on Monday, January 3 and Tuesday, January 4. The students who used these rooms will not attend school on these two days. Students will return to school on January 5, 2011.
3. Remove PCB containing ceiling tiles and baseboards in the remaining half of the school. This work will be completed by February 27, 2011.
4. All faculty and staff members whose classrooms or educational spaces were abated of PCB materials will unpack boxes and reset rooms for instructional purposes on Monday, February 28, and Tuesday, March 1. The students who used these rooms will not attend school on these two days. Students will return to school on Wednesday, March 2, 2011.
5. Make-up days in June – Students will need to make up three lost days of school in June in order to provide 180 school days (182 days were build into the original calendar).

Phase 4 – Remaining work (April vacation and/or summer)

1. Encapsulate exterior caulk on the green Transite panels.
2. Between the snow fence and the building, remove or properly cover any soil with PCBs that do not meet EPA guidelines.

After the School Committee meeting this evening, I intend to implement Phase 1 of the above plan. Phases 2 through 4 will require favorable actions by School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, and a recommendation of the Appropriations Committee. Your comments on all aspects of the plan are welcome before final decisions are made.

Tonight's School Committee meeting will be held in Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Estabrook School agenda item will start at approximately 8:00 p.m. The School Committee will set aside some time for public comments and questions.

I look forward to your input.

Sincerely,



Paul B. Ash, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools