



Lexington Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

MEMORANDUM

To: Estabrook Parents and Guardians

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

Re: Update on Estabrook School Environmental Concerns

Date: September 8, 2010

This afternoon, we received verbal notification from the school's consultant (EH &E) that three bulk material samples collected at Estabrook Elementary School tested positive for PCBs above 50 parts per million (ppm), which is the EPA threshold. Two of the samples were taken from caulking material around panels below the classroom windows (estimated to be at 2,000ppm and 18,000ppm). One sample was taken from an old ceiling tile (estimated to be at 500ppm).

Based on the information we just received, we have contacted LVI Services. The company will begin the encapsulation process tomorrow. LVI believes this work can be completed by Sunday. LVI will encapsulate the caulk with bond breaker tape, followed by a sealant layer of new caulk. This is the same successful process used to mitigate the glazing caulk.

Tomorrow, we expect to receive the results on the remaining bulk samples, including the newer ceiling tiles. On Friday morning we expect to receive the air sampling results. All of the test results will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee I established to help me evaluate the safety of the school based on the results. Five Estabrook parents have been selected by the PTA leadership to serve on the Advisory Committee. The other members of the Advisory Committee will include the environmental consultant, teachers, a school committee member, the Director of Public Facilities and Mrs. Trach.

While I would like to tell you now whether school will or will not be open on Monday, I do not yet have enough information. On Friday, the Advisory Committee will be reviewing the air testing results, the site specific risk assessment and the results of all bulk tests. In addition, we need to be sure that all of the caulk surrounding the window panels has been encapsulated and the tests results are successful.

By tomorrow evening, we will send you a further update.