





From:  JosephEstabrookElementarySchool-MA_scs@gcnotify.com 9/26/10 12:4... 

Subject: Estabrook PCB update from Dr. Ash, Superintendent of Schools

To:  MaryEllen Dunn

Attachments:  Attach0.html 3K
 Project Update 09.24.10 (EH&E 17228).pdf 59K

Notice from Lexington Public Schools, Dr. Paul Ash, Superintendent of Schools,

September 26, 2010

Dear Estabrook Parents and Guardians:

I recognize that the PCB levels at Estabrook is of great concern to parents, educators, and community members. I am writing to you to keep you informed of the latest developments and the steps we are taking to make Estabrook a school safe for all students and staff members.

I am pleased to report that the latest test results show that the concentrations of PCBs in indoor air has decreased by an average of 53% following the encapsulation of interior caulk below the ceiling plenum. I have attached the most recent report from EH and E.

I am also writing to let you know that we will be taking an interim step this weekend, in order to determine if removing the ceiling tiles in the kindergarten wing will be needed immediately or can wait. In the past few days, a plan has been developed by the consultant that is EPA-approved, which should help us determine if the ceiling tiles are a major source of PCBs or whether other materials in the classrooms are the major cause(s). The plan includes placing a polyethylene sheet across the ceiling to seal off the ceiling tiles in rooms one through six. On Monday and Tuesday, the consultant will test the air for PCBs. If the PCB levels drop significantly, it would mean the ceiling tiles are the major remaining source of PCBs. However, if the levels do not decline significantly, then the ceiling tiles were not the remaining major source. Concurrently, the contractor will extensively test other physical materials in the rooms for PCB levels.

This past Thursday evening, Lexington's Appropriations Committee transferred \$250,000 for this phase of the work. Before spending up to \$250,000 to remove and replace the ceiling tiles in the kindergarten wing this weekend, we need to be sure the ceiling tiles are the main source of PCBs. We will also conduct extensive tests in these empty classrooms. Once the EH and E consultants have identified the most effective next course of action, we will implement these steps during the next two weeks.

I know we are working through a difficult time for all of us. The scientific, educational, community, and logistical issues have been complex. I, too, wish the PCB problems could have been solved more quickly. I believe our step by step approach to gather information was the right approach, and is yielding lower PCB numbers.

As more information becomes available, I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

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