

Dear Students, Staff and Members of the School Community,

As Acting Superintendent, I decided to close schools on 10/3/17, 10/4/17, 10/5/17, and 10/6/17 as a precautionary measure to assure the safety of students and staff. During the closing of school, TTI Environmental Inc., the District's environmental consultant, conducted Air Quality Tests and Asbestos Air Sampling Tests to confirm results of previous tests. These additional testing measures were done as precautionary so as to assure the continued health and safety of our staff and students.

On 10/4/17 we received results that the Asbestos Air Sampling performed by TTI Environmental and the results confirmed to be within federal and state standards. On 10/5/17 at approximately 7:00 pm, we received the results from additional air quality tests, due to the late time in receiving the results and to err on the side of caution, TTI Environmental wanted more time to further analyze the report. On Friday, we met with all of the contractors and at that meeting TTI Environmental, having the appropriate time to fully review the report, gave us verbal confirmation that the high school was safe for occupancy. We were also provided recommendations to use filters to expedite the removal of any transient substances that were producing unfamiliar odors that raised the concerns of staff and students. Moving forward, the district's consultants are working together to alter construction scheduling and protocols to help alleviate many of the issues and concerns received from members of the school community.

Based upon the factual information, data analysis, and recommendations from experts, we will be reopening the high school to both students and staff on Tuesday 10/10/17. The staff will report to the Junior High School on Monday 10/9/17 to attend the previously scheduled district inservice. We will be addressing any and all questions students and staff may have and will have multiple avenues to express concerns or issues associated with the construction process. We are committed to implementing frequent, routine air sampling assessments for both asbestos and VOCs to verify continued satisfactory air quality, and to avoid any issues that put the safety of our students and staff at risk.

We have taken immediate counter measures to try to alleviate some of the concerns. One measure included using filter units to help expedite the removal of any substances that are causing odors. As we speak, filter units that have been graciously loaned to us free of cost from Synatec, are being utilized in the High School building.

Although we are resuming normal operations of our schools, we will be continuing efforts to improve the cleanliness of the schools. An enhanced cleaning protocol will be

put into effect to address the dust and unfamiliar odors associated with building construction.

Finally, we are committed to providing routine and thorough air quality testing in both the High School and the Junior High to assure the health and safety of both staff and students.

Thanks to all of the school community members for your patience throughout this matter. Please visit the Health and Safety page on the District's website to view the results of previous tests conducted by the District that indicate. The information can be found at <http://www.pinelandsregional.org/health-and-safety>.

A Construction and Air Quality Update presentation will occur during the Board Meeting on 10/11/17 at 7:00pm in the Junior High School Media Center.

Please contact Dr. Cheryl Stevenson at 609-296-3106 Ext. 3281 or by email CStevenson@prsdnj.org with any or concerns.