



PINELANDS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
520 Nugentown Road
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
BASED ON QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2017 BOARD WORK SESSION**

1. Why have none of the professionals (Garrison, New Road) attended any of the meetings since October 11?

Response from Mr. Garrison: He will not attend a public board meeting at PRSD until we have a clear understanding with all the professionals and the district and get help with addressing the public.

2. Mr. Banin was called on September 7...why were parents' concerns ignored regarding concerns over dirt, mold, sawdust, ceilings on the 3rd floor open and exposed?

Response from Mr Banin: All parent concerns were addressed; parent was notified of same.

3. Has an outside agency been hired to investigate this matter?

Response from Dr. Banks: As Interim Superintendent I am requesting that the Board Hire an outside agency to investigate the concerns related to construction and other Matters.

4. What are the costs for TTI to date?

Response from Dr. Banks: The costs for TTI to date are \$53,000.

5. Regarding the Jr. HS and the fire alarm going off, what is a fire watch? Why were students told to ignore the fire alarm?

Response from Dr. Banks: A fire watch legally occurs any time we take the fire alarm system off line to make repairs. Custodial staff are assigned to different locations in the building in order to conduct the fire watch. The local fire department is notified.

When the fire alarm system is worked on, it is necessary for the company (in this case Siemens) to turn the system on and test it. Students and staff are advised of the test and told there is no need to evacuate the building. On another note, during our review of security drills with students and staff, they are trained to ignore a fire alarm during a lock down. The reason for this is to prevent an intruder from deliberately pulling the alarm in order to gain access to students and staff.

6. Were the playing fields tested?

Response from Mr. Romanoli: There is no air-borne asbestos as per the Synatec report that it is a non-friable material...since it is heavy it is unlikely that it will blow that far.

Dr. Banks: Despite that statement I have requested that TTI conduct testing of soil in adjacent fields, including the field directly across from the high school. TTI advises that they expect to have the results no later than Monday, November 20.

7. Were the ducts cleaned?

Mr. Romanoli: Does not believe that the cleaning of ducts is necessary because there is no supply duct work. TTI will go up on the roof and remove duct work and inspect for debris.

8. Is the air intake system being cleaned?

Mr. Romanoli: TTI will do a visual inspection of the areas where the asbestos-containing roof was...will also inspect the air intake system in all of D Wing.

9. What is being done to make sure the building is free of asbestos?

Mr. Romanoli: We are conducting regular air quality tests, including bulk sampling...we are also conducting visual inspections above the ceiling in the area of D Wing...TTI has also inspected the grounds, taken samples of debris found and will advise us of any concerns that need to be addressed. We did find one piece of asphalt roof material in the playground that tested positive for asbestos and are having all mulch removed and the equipment wiped down.

10. Were parents of Rainbow Express notified about the finding of asbestos-containing material in the playground mulch?

Dr. Banks: Yes. The public was advised during parent meeting on October 30, and parents Of Rainbow Express received written notification.

11, Why did the NJ Dept. of Health come out?

Mr. Romanoli: Due to citizen complaints the following agencies visited the district and Have confirmed their satisfaction with the situation and environment they found. The Agencies that visited were the Department of Labor, Asbestos Division; PEOSHA; Department of Health and Human Services.

12, When staff complained about air quality was it discussed with the Board?

TTI: Yes and air quality testing was done.

13. Were any parts of the Referendum started or completed before citizens voted for the Referendum?

Brooks Garrison: No.

14. Regarding the Jr. HS, why not recheck the locker room...was this done?

TTI: We collected samples today (November 14); could not do it earlier because of activity In the gym.

15. As a result of the high levels of VOC compounds for the junior high, when was retesting done?

Mr. Romanoli: Two rounds of air testing were completed: One by TTI (October 10, 11) and One by AHERA in August...these tests revealed no high levels of VOCs in the building.

16. Why don't we have a functional fire alarm system at the Jr. HS? Siemens can fix this—it requires them to go into the ducting to get at the sensors.

Mr. Mueller: Due to summer construction new equipment was installed. Aging sensors and modules are being replaced. The fire alarm system is currently operational and we are working with the State Fire Marshal to make sure we do not have additional issues.

17. There have been several questions about the ventilation system at the high school and whether or not it was operational during roof activity.

Mr. Romanoli: 1) During asbestos roof removal the units in affected classrooms were shut down because the classrooms were unoccupied. In general, HVAC units were not required to be shut down during roofing activity per code requiring air exchanges in occupied areas. The HVAC units that were operation during roof removal were all checked prior to school opening. 2) All HVAC filters have been replaced as of the week of October 10, 2017. Per Rich Mueller, we have an outside contractor (Northeast Mechanical) that maintains the HVAC system annually. RAMM Environmental does a yearly inspection for prevention and treatment of mold.

18. Did air quality tests performed by AHERA consultants in August identify any air quality issues that would affect occupancy of the building?

Mr. Romanoli: There was an elevated benzene issue in July during the hot tar process on the roof...The September 8 AHERA report does identify high levels of Ethylbenzene. John Smoyer from AHERA gave a verbal to Mr. Romanoli that the building was fine.

19. Was the September 10 memo discussed with the Board?

Dr. Banks: As per the September minutes posted online for September 11, Executive Session Meeting Minutes #1, "The team discussed an issue where the contractor failed to properly clean the roof before he completed installation of the base sheet. The construction team will conduct further tests to determine the extent of the problem." At no time was the September 11 memo itself distributed to the Board or the Superintendent, and at no time was there a discussion or recommendation regarding the stoppage of all rooftop activities while rooftop construction is taking place.

20. Why was the contractor allowed to work prior to 3 pm while school was in session, when his contract required him to perform work after 3 pm?

Mr. Romanoli: No hot tar was being applied while the building was being occupied. Collectively the team agreed to allow the contractor to work during the school day based on the fact that the base sheet was complete and no hot tar work was in progress, as this portion of the work was completed. The cold-applied adhesive being used required a certain dew point for installation that could not be achieved if the work began after 3 pm, as per Tremco Manufacturers recommendations. The contractor's staging area was designated in the back of the building separate from school occupants. Protocols were in place requiring the contractor to stay out of the building and have no communication with students and staff. Protocols were also in place and presented to the staff on opening day that if they were to experience any disruption due to noise, odor or other discomfort, to notify the principal who will take action immediately to stop the offensive work or otherwise relocate the classroom. Note that manufacturer's published literature on the cold adhesive being used specifically identifies that this product can be used in occupied spaces, and in fact is specifically used in hospitals and educational settings. Despite the manufacturer's literature, the construction team took steps to do air quality testing during installation of the cap sheet utilizing this cold applied adhesive.

21. A concern was raised that odors were coming in through the gravity vents.

TTI: You can have smells but that doesn't mean it's bad for you. In fact, some substances do not have an odor, such as carbon monoxide that are bad for you. Despite that, there are different tolerance levels for odors in general.

Mr. Romanoli: Note that the ventilation system by code cannot be turned off in any classroom that is occupied...in any landlocked room ventilation cannot be turned off.

22. Did the roofing contractor adhere to required asbestos-containing roof removal practices?

Mr. Romanoli: The contractor removed asbestos-containing material from the roof in August under the supervision of Epic Environmental, and Epic indicates in their report that they complied with all requirements. In late September and October, the debris from the original roof removal was properly HEPA vacuumed per all regulations according to TTI.