



January 29, 2019

Dear WTPS Families and Staff:

I am writing to update you on the gym floor concern I contacted you about last week. We have established a page on our website that will contain information and testing results for our gym floors. Access the page at [this link](#). This page will contain the air quality results previously sent, as well as the results of the testing that was conducted when the gym floors at both Bunker Hill Middle School and Bells Elementary School were repaired. It was during this process at BHMS that we learned of the existence of mercury in the floors.

As explained in my previous letter, mercury was legally used as an additive to the rubberized floor as part of the curing process. Therefore, the presence of mercury was not listed on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer.

If the presence of mercury exceeds 0.2 PPM (parts per million), the floor has to be handled in a specific way if it is being disposed of. At BHMS, our floor contained 1.8 PPM – this is standard in floors where mercury was added to cure the floor. Findings will typically range between 1 and 2 PPM.

We recently requested and received the content findings of the Bells floor that was repaired over the summer of 2018. The Bells floor measured 0.64 PPM of mercury. This is above the 0.2 industry standard for specific handling, if disposing, but below the 1.0 PPM for implementing the more detailed air quality sample – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Method 6009. **Please note that PPM refers to the amount of any chemical in a floor. It is not related to air quality testing.** It simply provides information that would direct specific types of disposal and the types of air quality tests that we should use, if needed. I have posted these results on the website.

Regardless, we have secured a vendor who will be conducting the NIOSH Method 6009 testing on all six floors installed in 1997. This is the more thorough test recommended for floors containing more than 1 PPM of mercury. These tests will be conducted and analyzed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). We are being very aggressive to ensure our testing is completed as quickly as possible, and we will update our page when new information becomes available.

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Excellence through Equity, Engagement, and Environment

*Adopted by the Board of Education,
December 2018*

I also have posted a letter from our engineering firm, Remington and Vernick, who offer their opinion on the current state of our floors, our initial testing, and our plan of action.

Again, we are committed to providing a safe environment for our students, our staff, and our community, and we will continue to share information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph N. Bollendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent