



# North Stonington Public Schools

297 Norwich-Westerly Road, North Stonington, CT 06359

Phone (860) 535-2800

Fax (860) 535-1470

PETER L. NERO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 9, 2017

Dear North Stonington Public Schools families and staff members:

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools would like to bring the following to your attention:

As you are aware, one of the primary reasons that we have supported a school modernization project was to eliminate any environmental concerns in our schools. All our town schools were built in the 1950s and 1960s and the last renovations were completed in 1995. Statewide statistics reveal that 66% of Connecticut schools were built between 1960 and 1979, a time when materials that were used were later found to be of a health concern.

Over the last 4 years, a number of public meetings were held in our district in which we expressed our concerns. Fortunately, last spring, a bond was approved by the voters of North Stonington to approve a school modernization project. In addition to modernizing our schools, the building plan includes a comprehensive remediation plan to remove any and all possible hazardous materials including polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. PCBs were commonly used in construction during the time our buildings were originally built.

It has been publically known for many years that PCBs, a compound used in window caulking and other materials, exist in our schools. While it has been stated a number of times at various board meetings, budget hearings and building project referendum hearings, that the district is in complete compliance with all DEEP and EPA regulations in dealing with our environmental concerns; it was also stated that at any time we could be placed in a position to remediate the environmental issues sooner than later. That possibility made the passing of a building project even more imperative.

On July 5th, we, along with our architects and engineers met with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in Hartford for a final review of our building project. Our meeting was also attended by our environmental consultant who presented our comprehensive plan to remediate any and all environmental issues including PCBs. That plan has now been accepted by the DAS and we are approaching the project to be shovel-ready.

With the modernization project about to break ground at any time, DEEP and the EPA have requested that we develop and institute an interim plan prior to the project's commencement. We will continue to monitor our testing results on the inside and outside of our buildings.

Our interim plan, as of today, includes the placing of fencing on the exterior of two areas of the elementary school. The fence extends out about ten feet from the building and students are blocked

(over)

from the soil in those areas. The fence was erected recently. Our consultant, town and district are continuing to work with DEEP and the EPA and will institute any additional recommendations. Again, once the modernization project is complete, our schools will be completely free of any of the aforementioned materials.

We are inviting you to attend an informational meeting which will be held on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the North Stonington Elementary School, multipurpose room at 7:00 in order to address any questions that you may have. All our recent testing can be found on our district website: <http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/district/board-of-education/other-documents/>.

Yours truly,



Robert Carlson,

Board of Education Chairperson

Yours truly,



Peter L. Nero,

Superintendent of Schools