

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Safety and Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes

Superintendent's Conference Room, District Office
July 15, 2015 - 8:30 am

Committee members present: Leslie Finegold, Bernie Brady, Heather Palmer

Other Board members present: Sue Moore, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Kathleen Oxberry, Alan Tabachnick

Administrators present: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Karen Berk, Terry Yemm

Mrs. Finegold, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Public Session

There were no public comments.

Health Risks Related to Synthetic Turf

Director of Operations, Terry Yemm, shared studies conducted to explore whether or not there is a link between artificial turf and negative health effects. The result is very encouraging. Scientific research from academic, federal and state government organizations has unequivocally failed to find any link between negative health effects and artificial turf. Mr. Yemm added that we would require the manufacturer of any turf that we purchase to provide testing to verify that the turf is safe for use. In addition, we would also have the material tested by a local testing lab of our choice to verify that the turf is safe. Said testing would be paid for by the manufacturer.

Management of Life/Safety Issues During PWHS Construction

District Safety Officer, Tim McDonald, reported on the management of safety issues during the high school construction.

- Construction Workers
 - Collection of clearances for onsite workers is ongoing and will be completed prior to the start of school
 - Onsite workers will be issued an ID card that must be visible at all times while onsite.
 - A central entry point for construction workers is being created and will be in place by the start of school to prevent the co-mingling of workers and students/staff.
- Traffic Control
 - Inner court is closed and staff members will be relocated to Cafeteria East
 - Some parking in parking lot west will be lost to construction. Students will be relocated to the rear and Victory Field lots
 - Parking passes will be sold and students will be advised to park in the proper spots, first come first serve. Students will be advised against parking in the
 - To slow traffic, a stop sign was added at Colonial Drive at the intersection by the pool/weight room.
 - The far west entrance to the west parking lots will be closed and used only by construction workers.
 - Fences will be added to separate construction worker and student/staff vehicles.
 - The crossover area between gym north and the pool will be staffed each day during construction hours.
- Fire Marshal
 - Fire Marshall will be onsite regularly to review changes in the building that necessitate evacuation route changes
 - PWHS will be evaluated daily by the District Safety Officer to ensure posted evacuation routes are accurate and current. School staff will be advised any time changes are made to an evacuation route.
- Employee Summer Access
 - Access will be limited due to ongoing construction. School administration will notify staff
 - District Safety Officer will monitor this throughout summer to prevent improper entry into unsafe areas

Plymouth Elementary Air Quality Feedback

Director of Operations, Terry Yemm, provided feedback on the results of the Indoor Air Quality/Mold Investigation at PE on May 26, 2015. The investigation was conducted to determine if PE's indoor air quality is typical of a normal school environment, and to determine if reported storm water events occurring around that time had resulted in elevated airborne mold levels. Visual inspections and airborne mold sampling were performed to accomplish this task. The investigation revealed:

1. Airborne mold concentrations measured were well below outdoor concentrations, and the species composition indoors was similar to outdoors.
2. No visual indications of mold growth were observed in the classrooms inspected. Relative humidity was below 60% in all areas measured.
3. Recommendations were made to strip, encapsulate, and replace degraded fiberglass liners in classroom unit ventilators with a non-fibrous material.

Over the past 12 years various reactive and proactive testing procedures have been performed in response to questions relating to the indoor air quality and the building envelop. Results of the testing performed by various companies over the 12-year period of time, as well as the testing performed on May 26, 2015, have consistently shown that there are no abnormal conditions and that all findings were consistent with signs of adequate indoor environment conditions.

Act 71 – Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, provided an update on Act 71 (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) and the actions the district is planning in order to fulfill its requirements. A packet was distributed providing a link to PDE's active website. Also included were: provisions of Act 71 for professional educators (grades 6-12), a copy of PDE's Model Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Policy (after which CSD will develop its own), a copy of PDE's Model Suicide Awareness and Prevention Administrative Regulations, and CSDs. Emergency Assessment Procedures for students in grades K-5 and 6-12.

Mrs. Berk shared that CSD's Behavioral Health Advisor, Felix Scherzinger, will be working with our three secondary community counselors to provide mandatory professional development on Suicide Awareness and Prevention Education to all staff. They will also be working on developing age-appropriate education for students in grades 6-12 on the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking for self or others including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen B. Berk
Director of Pupil Services & Special Education

Terry Yemm
Director of Operations